Do NOT distribute outside of IRC without permission.
"REMEMBER"
Support the Mangaka by buying your copy today!

VIZ media

R.O.D

READ OR DREAM

We are Paper Sisters Detective Company

2

story by
Hideyuki Kurata

art by
Ran Ayanaga

R E A D O R D R E A M

R.O.D

READ OR DREAM

We are Paper Sisters Detective Company

Story by Hideyuki Kurata
Art by Ran Ayanaga

R.O.D
READ OR DREAM
We are Paper Sisters Detective Company

MAGGIE'S GOING TO TAIWAN TO CHECK INTO SOME SECONDHAND BOOKS.
I'M OFF TO AMERICA TO APPRAISE A POSSIBLE FORGERY.
WE NEED YOU TO HOLD DOWN THE FORT FOR FIVE DAYS.
WE'LL BRING BACK SOUVENIRS.
SEE YOU LATER...
NO FAIR! HOW COME I CAN'T GO?

CHAPTER 8

SLAM

R.O.D

READ OR DREAM

We are Paper Sisters Detective Company

CONTENTS

Chapter 8 5
Chapter 9 29
Chapter 10 53
Chapter 11 77
Chapter 12 101
Chapter 13 125
Chapter 14 149
Chapter 15 175
Postscript 200
Bonus Story: Cleaning Up Demons with Anita the Cleaner 204

2

UH...
DING DONG
Y-YES?
MILK
KRIK
IS THIS PAPER SISTERS DETECTIVE COMPANY?
I GUESS IT'S NO USE, THEN...
ARGH
THEY'RE BOTH OUT?
I SEE...

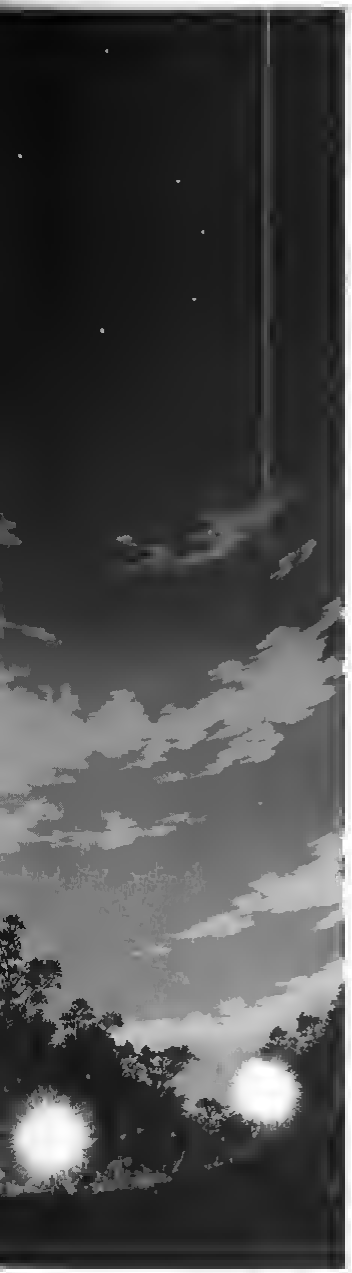
WELL...
...IT'S NICE TO HAVE A LITTLE PEACE AND QUIET ONCE IN A WHILE.
MILK
CHAPTER 8

IT'S A DIARY WITH A BUILT-IN CLOCK. IT WAS MADE IN THE 19TH CENTURY
ONCE YOU SET THE CLOCK THE DIARY CANNOT BE OPENED UNTIL THAT DATE.
1847/07/09
IF YOU FORCE IT OPEN, INK WILL LEAK THROUGH AND BLACK OUT THE WRITING INSIDE.
THE CLOCK WAS SET TO MAY 19, 2003, SO NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO OPEN IT.
1847/07/09
YOU DON'T KNOW FOR SURE?
PEOPLE IN OLDEN DAYS HAD WEIRD IDEAS.
SO THE CLOCK IS A LOCK?
THE DIARY MY GRANDFATHER OWNED WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE PROPERTY OF JAMES DENZEL, A GREAT BRITISH WRITER.
IF IT'S TRUE, ITS LITERARY VALUE IS IMMENSE.

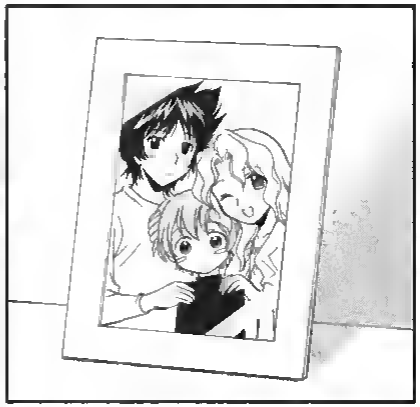
I'LL BE HAPPY TO HEAR YOUR STORY!
MY NAME IS BECKY MIAO.
MY GRANDFATHER WAS JEAN MIAO, A COLLECTOR OF RARE BOOKS.
THE CLOCK DIARY?
THE MOST VALUABLE BOOK IN MY GRANDFATHER'S COLLECTION WAS THE "CLOCK DIARY."

I WANT TO RETURN THE DIARY TO MY GRANDFATHER.
IF I DON'T, I HAVE A FEELING HE WON'T BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE...
YUP
SO YOU WANT OUR HELP GETTING THE DIARY BACK?
I NEVER SAID I COULDN'T DO IT!
ZAK
YOUR SISTERS WON'T BE BACK FOR FIVE DAYS.
BUT... IT'S NO GOOD.
GR R
I'D LIKE TO MOVE AS EARLY AS TONIGHT, BUT THEY'RE CRIME LORDS. I CAN'T MANAGE IT ALONE...
BY THEN, THE GUARD AROUND THAT DIARY WILL BE MUCH TIGHTER.
BAM

I PLANNED TO HOLD ON TO THE CLOCK DIARY, BUT IT WAS STOLEN IN THE CONFUSION.
WHEN MY GRANDFATHER DIED, MOST OF HIS COLLECTION WAS BOUGHT BY ANTIQUE BOOK DEALERS.
IT WAS STOLEN ?
NO...
THAT'S A WEEK AWAY! YOU'LL KNOW VERY SOON!
THE BUYER HAD CONNECTIONS TO THE UNDERGROUND, AND HE PASSED THE DIARY ON TO LAU, A COLLECTOR IN THE MAFIA.
IT WAS WELL PLANNED.
BUT MY GRANDFATHER BELIEVED THE DIARY WAS DENZEL'S, AND HE ALWAYS DREAMED OF READING IT.
HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY HE COULD DO THAT.
LAU HAS INFLUENCE INSIDE THE DEPARTMENT. THEY'D NEVER TAKE THE WORD OF A YOUNG GIRL LIKE ME.
YOU SHOULD REPORT THAT TO THE POLICE!



CHK



IT'S OKAY TO TAKE THIS ON, RIGHT?

WAK
SHIP
18 sun
19 mon
20 tue
!!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
OH, ANITA!
WUP
WUP
I'LL TAKE THE JOB, NO MATTER WHAT!
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M PRETTY GOOD.

ER, YOU'RE OKAY. BUT WE CAN'T GET CAUGHT.
I WON'T.
PLEASE DON'T GET IN MY WAY.
WAP
THERE!
WHIZ
DO I LOOK ODD?
IF WE'RE SNEAKING IN, I THOUGHT I'D BETTER DRESS THE PART.
PIK
PIK
PIK
GRP

I CAN DO THIS!
BUT... WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT?

MAYBE IT'S THE SAME ONE MAGS WENT TO.
LAU HAS GONE TO TAIWAN TO ATTEND A RARE BOOK SALE. HIS HENCHMEN ARE PROBABLY WITH HIM.
IT'S QUIET... I THOUGHT THERE'D BE MORE TENSION IN THE AIR.
ONE OF THE VENDORS AT THE UNIVERSITY IS A COLLECTOR. I GOT IT OUT OF HIM, A LITTLE AT A TIME.
WHERE DID YOU GET ALL YOUR INFORMATION?
WHAT DO YOU DO, BECKY?
I'M IN GRAD SCHOOL, MAJORING IN HISTORY.
YOU'D GET ALONG WITH MY SISTERS ...
ANITA ?

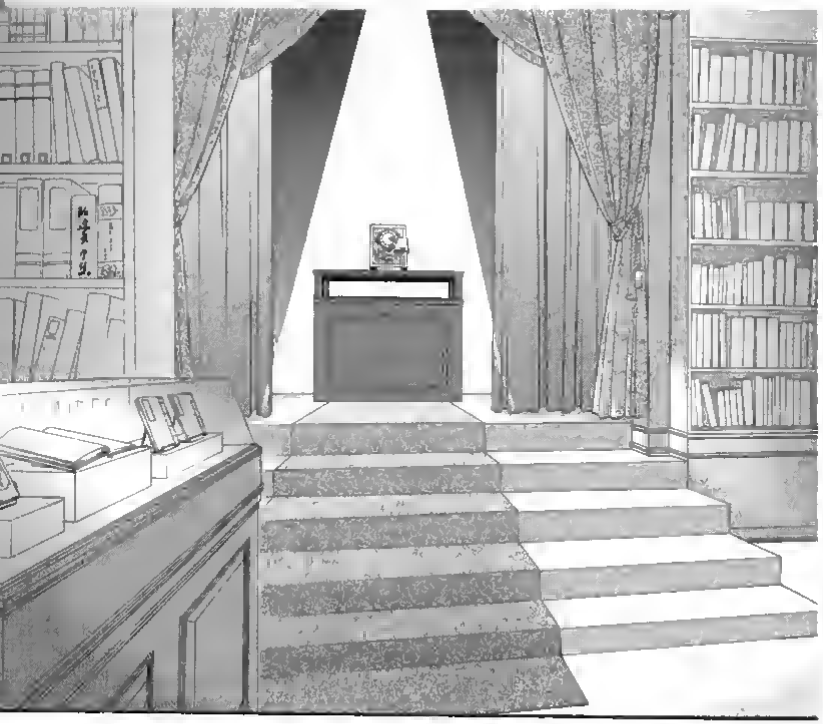
TO THINK YOU CAN USE PAPER LIKE THIS! YOU'RE AMAZING, ANITA!
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NO ALARM SYSTEM. LET'S GO.
YEAH, WELL ...
GULP
KRIK
KRIK

!!
IT'S PROBABLY IN THERE.
A SECRET ROOM...
KREEK
!!
KRAK
KRAK
TAK
TAK

NOK
NOK
...
THE CARPET IS WORN HERE ...
GET BACK.
KREE...
!!
SKREE
KRAK
KREAK
ARGH!

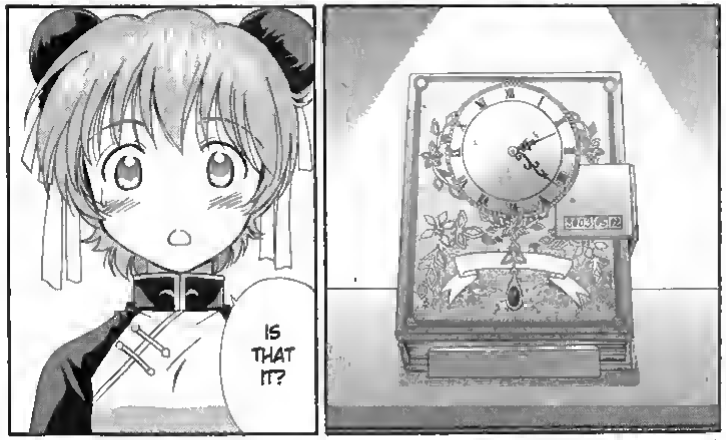
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK
...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
DON'T WORRY. THE CLOCK DIARY WILL CALL TO US.
JUST LISTEN CARE-FULLY ...
TIK
TIK
LET'S GO.
HUH
TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK

WOW...
THE SECURITY IS REALLY LAX, BUT WE'D BETTER NOT TAKE TOO LONG.
WELL, LET'S HURRY AND FIND THE DIARY.
YES.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO START.
BECAUSE HE'S A COLLEC-TOR.
ALL THOSE BOOKS! WHY COLLECT SO MANY?
I DON'T GET IT ...



!!

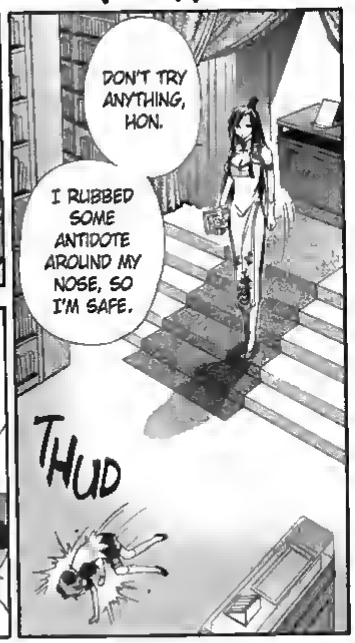
"FOUND IT"?
I'VE FINALLY FOUND IT...
THE CLOCK DIARY ...

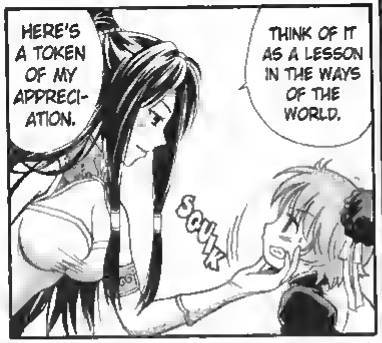

IS THAT IT?

THD
!
THD
WHAT ?
!?
GASP
THAK
THD
IT ONLY LASTS FOR A SHORT DURATION, BUT IT ACTS AS A MUSCLE RELAXANT.
THIS IS A CH'ING DYNASTY APHRODISIAC WITH A TWIST.
BECKY ?
IT SEEMS TO WORK EXTRA WELL ON MEN... JUST THE WAY I MIXED IT.
RIP
RIP
THAT'S NOT MY REAL NAME.
SORRY, ANITA.

DON'T MOVE!
!!
WHIZ
MR. TSAI? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH?
WAK
!!
OW!
ANITA?

AAH!
GRR!
WHIP
WAK
DAK


DON'T TRY ANYTHING, HON.
I RUBBED SOME ANTIDOTE AROUND MY NOSE, SO I'M SAFE.
THUD


HERE'S A TOKEN OF MY APPRECI-ATION.
THINK OF IT AS A LESSON IN THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.
SQUIK

YOU WERE A GREAT HELP, ANITA.
MY PARTNER RAN AWAY, SO I WAS AT A LOSS AS TO HOW TO GET IN HERE.

YOU... TRICKED ME...

OH, AND THE STORY ABOUT MY GRAND-FATHER WAS A LIE, TOO. ♪
THAT'S RIGHT. HEE HEE LALI IS A COLLECTOR, BUT HE'S NOT A MEMBER OF THE MAFIA.

...LILY THE READER EXTRAOR-DINAIRE!
PEOPLE CALL ME THE BOOK PIRATE...
BAM
!!

CHAPTER 9

GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR SISTERS!
I'LL WRITE YOU A THANK-YOU NOTE, TOO!
!
SMAK
HAHAHAHAHA
I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR THIS...
DARN YOU!
RE-MEMBER THAT!

OH, ORION ...
SHF
GULP
IF ONLY YOU'D COME HOME, I'D BE HAPPY.
I WISH YOU'D HURRY UP AND GET OVER YOUR SNIT.
AH... ♪
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO GET IT SO EASILY?
AS THEY SAY, PRAISE A FOOL AND YOU MAKE HIM USEFUL.

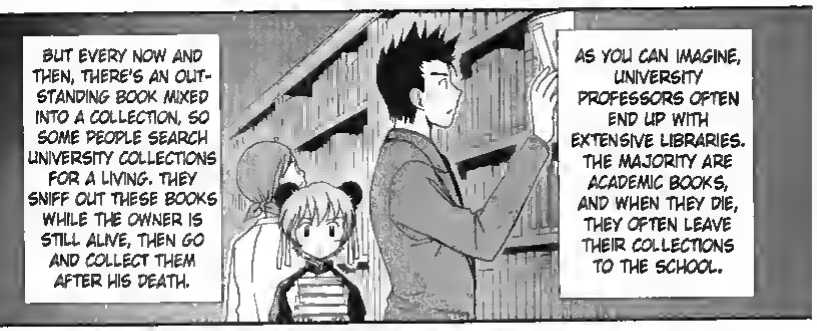
MR. TSAI! ARE YOU SMUGGLING STOLEN BOOKS?
ALL OF THE BOOKS WE CARRY ARE ABOVEBOARD... AT LEAST ON PAPER.
IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD TO LET ANYONE FIND OUT WE HAVE THAT SORT OF MATERIAL.
WE HAVE SOME RATHER... UNUSUAL BOOKS STORED IN THAT ROOM.
WE CAN'T CALL THE COPS.
!!
WILL YOU LET ME HANDLE THIS?
OH, MAN... WHEN MR. LAU RETURNS, I'M GOING TO BE FIRED!
HE WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO READING THAT DIARY!
UM...
BAM

SO YOU WERE TAKEN IN.
I SEE...
THAT'S NO EXCUSE!
AH!
LILY HAS QUITE A REPUTATION.
SEVERAL OF MY CLIENTS HAVE BEEN HIT BY HER.
I'M SORRY...
I HAD NO IDEA..

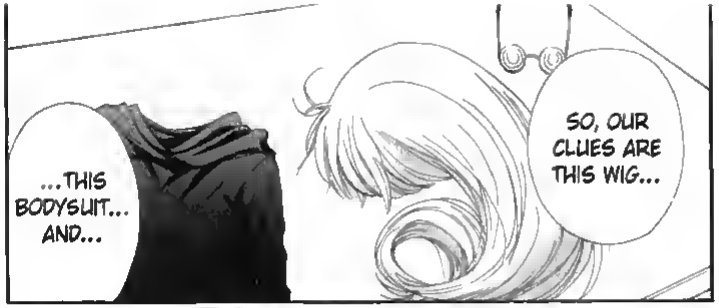
WE'LL DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP YOU.
SHALL WE LET HER TRY?
...
ALL RIGHT.
THANKS A LOT, GUYS!

I'LL CAPTURE HER AND GET THE BOOK BACK BY THEN!
AFTER ALL, IT'S MY FAULT!
WHEN'S MR. LAU GETTING BACK?
IN FIVE DAYS ...
PLEASE LET ME TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY!
NO! YOU'RE ONLY A CHILD!
BOW
PLEASE LET ME DO IT!
BUT...
BESIDES, IT'D BE BEST FOR US IF THIS NEVER GOT OUT.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO.
...

OH!
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S A VENDOR ...
...BUT ONE OF OUR BUYERS GETS HIS BOOKS AT THE UNIVERSITY.
!!


BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN, THERE'S AN OUTSTANDING BOOK MIXED INTO A COLLECTION, SO SOME PEOPLE SEARCH UNIVERSITY COLLECTIONS FOR A LIVING. THEY SNIFF OUT THESE BOOKS WHILE THE OWNER IS STILL ALIVE, THEN GO AND COLLECT THEM AFTER HIS DEATH.
AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS OFTEN END UP WITH EXTENSIVE LIBRARIES. THE MAJORITY ARE ACADEMIC BOOKS, AND WHEN THEY DIE, THEY OFTEN LEAVE THEIR COLLECTIONS TO THE SCHOOL.

FWIP
IF WE CHECK THOSE OUT...
WE HAVE SEVERAL BOOKS THAT WE BOUGHT FROM HIM.


SO, OUR CLUES ARE THIS WIG...
...THIS BODYSUIT... AND...

HOW CAN WE FIND HER FROM THESE?
ALL THESE ITEMS CAN BE BOUGHT ANYWHERE.
NO...
DID SHE SAY ANYTHING THAT HINTED AT HER LOCATION?

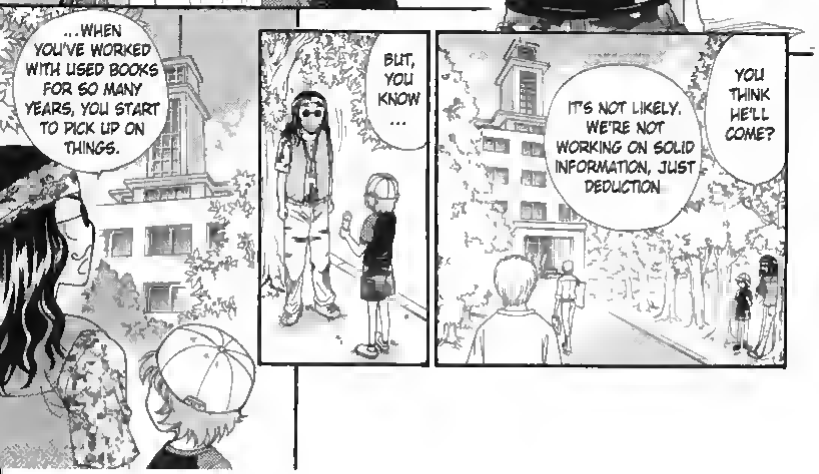
...THIS.

I JUST LEARNED ABOUT IT TODAY.
I WONDER HOW SHE FOUND OUT THE CLOCK DIARY WAS HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SHE SAID A VENDOR AT THE UNIVERSITY IS A COLLECTOR, AND SHE HEARD IT FROM HIM.
BUT THAT COULD'VE BEEN ANOTHER LIE...

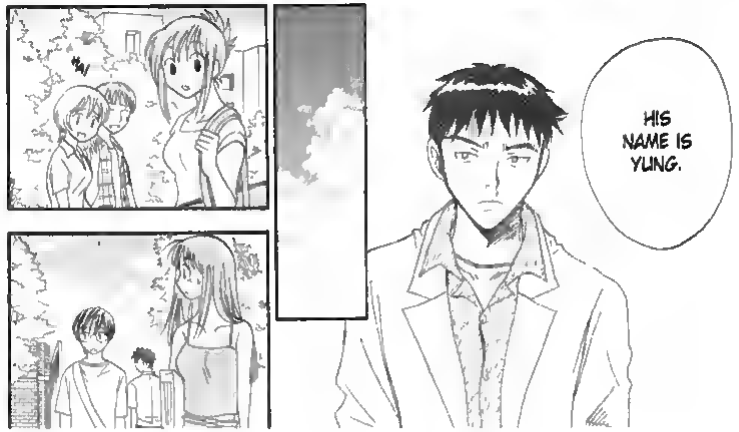
OH...

WELL, NEITHER DO YOU.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A COLLEGE STUDENT, MR. TSAI.
tee hee
BLAST FROM THE PAST!


...WHEN YOU'VE WORKED WITH USED BOOKS FOR SO MANY YEARS, YOU START TO PICK UP ON THINGS.
BUT, YOU KNOW ...
IT'S NOT LIKELY. WE'RE NOT WORKING ON SOLID INFORMATION, JUST DEDUCTION
YOU THINK HE'LL COME?

ENGLISH LIT
HONG KONG UNIVERSITY
!!

...!
WHO SOLD YOU THIS?


Wai
HIS NAME IS YUNG.

LOOK, THAT'S HIM!
NO WAY ...
!!
TAP
YOU MAY NOT REALIZE IT, ANITA...
...BUT BOOKS ARE YOUR ALLIES.

SOMETIMES, IN THIS WORLD, MIRACLES HAPPEN.
IF A BOOK LOVER IS LOOKING FOR A BOOK, IT WILL EVENTUALLY FALL INTO HIS HANDS, THOUGH IT MAY TAKE AGES.
I'VE SEEN THAT HAPPEN MANY TIMES OVER THE YEARS.
THAT'S WHY, ESPECIALLY WHERE BOOKS ARE CONCERNED, NO MATTER HOW LOW THE PROBABILITY... I CAN BELIEVE IN MIRACLES.
NOT A PROBLEM. YOUR SISTERS MORE THAN MAKE UP FOR IT WITH *THEIR* LOVE OF BOOKS.
BE-SIDES ...
BUT WE CAN'T COUNT ON THAT.
YOU SEE... I'M NOT A BOOK LOVER.
SHF

SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
IN THE WORLD OF BOOK DEALING, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP A CLIENT'S SECRETS!
YOU PROBABLY SAW THE BOOK WHEN WE HIRED YOU TO STRAIGHTEN UP THE STOREROOM!
POK
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SWO
OSH
HI-YAH!
SH
KK
TUP

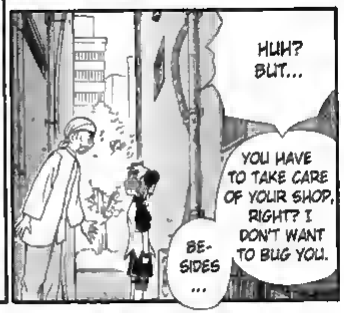
WHO ARE YOU?
BAM
JG
OH!
GRR
ACTUALLY... WHAT ARE YOU?
YUNG!
YOU PASSED INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLOCK DIARY TO LILY THE READER EXTRAORDINAIRE, DIDN'T YOU?
PAH

PLEASE! PLEASE TELL ME!
THUK
BAM
GRR
IF I DON'T CLEAR THIS UP, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CALL MYSELF A SISTER TO THE OTHER TWO!
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU? PLEASE HELP HER.
...
...

THIS IS A SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS.
TUP
SHING
...THIS GIRL DREW THE OLD MAID.
BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T PLAY BY THE RULES ...
WH-WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU?
I DON'T LIKE DOING THIS, BUT ...
SORRY, MR. YUNG.
SHP
ZIK

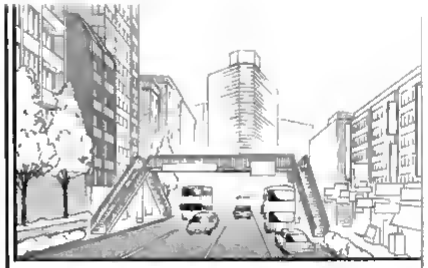
...I WANT TO SETTLE THIS MYSELF.

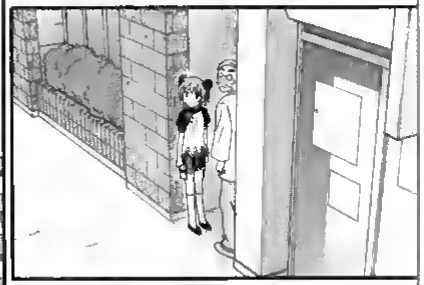
NOW, WHAT TO DO...
THANKS, MR. TSAI. YOU CAN GO.
I'LL HANDLE THE REST BY MYSELF.


HUH? BUT...
YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR SHOP, RIGHT? I DON'T WANT TO BUG YOU.
BESIDES ...

THANKS.

...
!
SHP
AND DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS.
IF THINGS GET DANGEROUS, CALL ME.





...

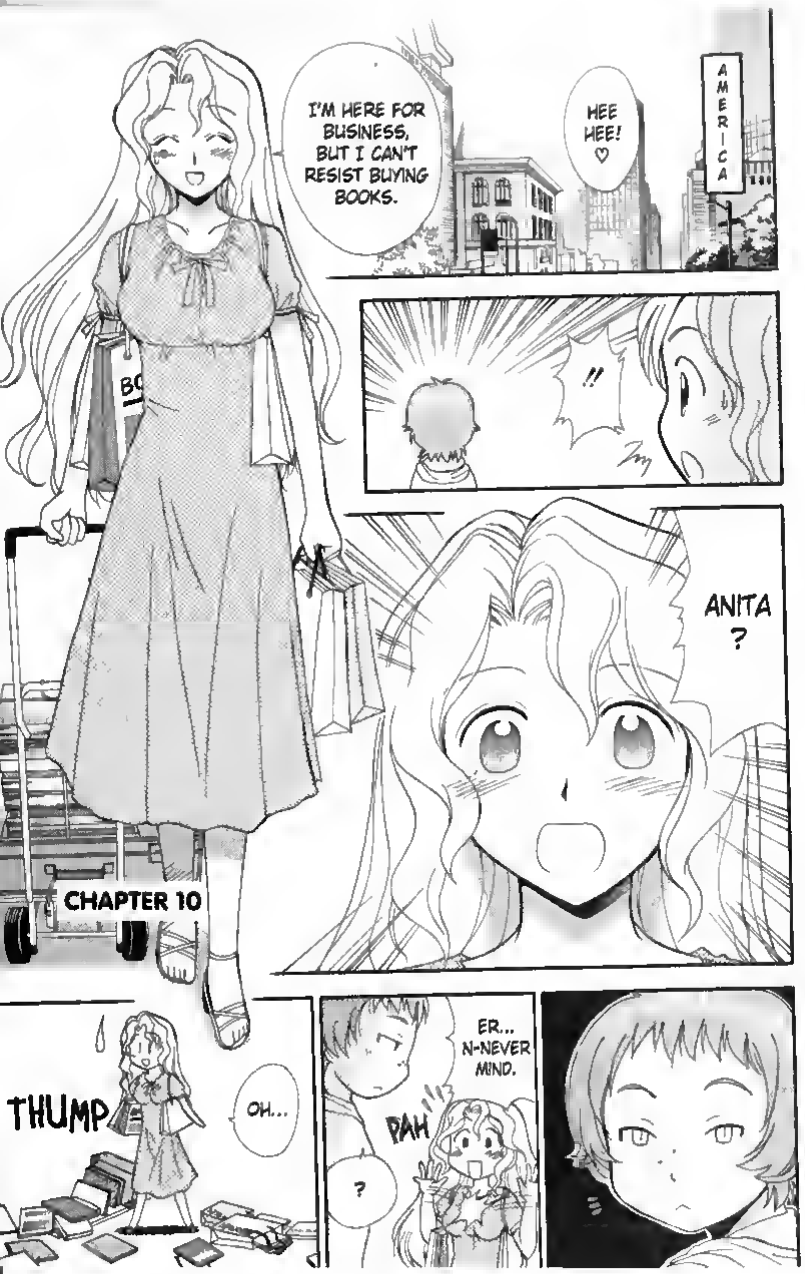
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER ROOM NUMBER.
THIS IS A PRETTY LONG SHOT.

THERE'S NO GUARANTEE SHE'S THERE.
LILY HAS SEVERAL HIDEOUTS. I ONLY KNOW ABOUT ONE OF THEM.

MICH...
MAGS...
HOLD DOWN THE FORT, ANITA.
I'LL BRING YOU A SOUVENIR.
NO FAIR! TAKE ME WITH YOU!
WE CAN'T DO THAT.
HUH ?
WHY NOT ?

AAAARGH!!
KA-RA-K
CRASH
HAP
HAP
PLIP
PLUP
:SOB:
:SOB:

!?
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOOD FOR NOTHING.
YOU'D JUST GET IN THE WAY.
KRAK
KRAK
GAH
I DOUBT WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN.
GOOD-BYE, ANITA.
!!
SLAM
WAIT!! MICH!!
MAGS !!

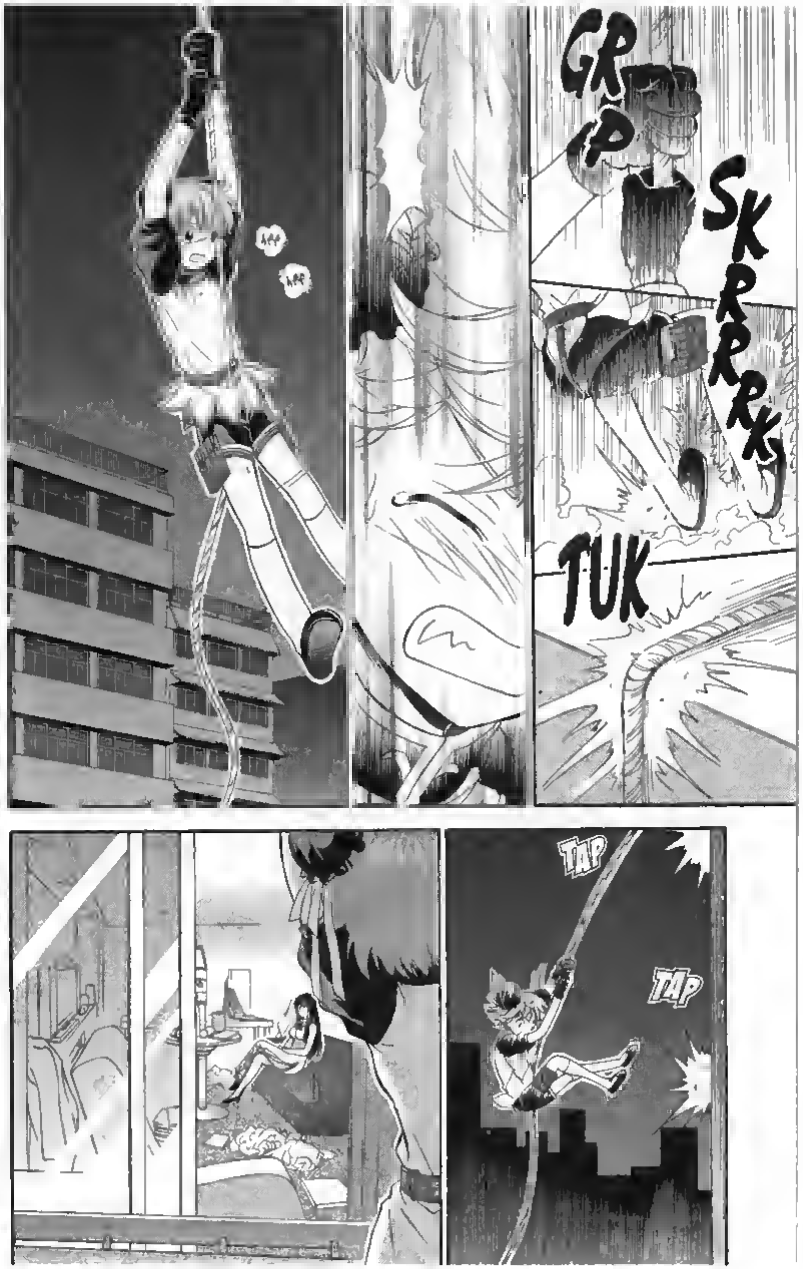

AMERICA
I'M HERE FOR BUSINESS, BUT I CAN'T RESIST BUYING BOOKS.
HEE HEE! ♡
!!
ANITA ?
CHAPTER 10
THUMP
OH...
ER... N-NEVER MIND.
PAH
?

THERE SHE IS!
!!
SLP
SLP
RUB RUB
I'LL PAY YOU BACK!
DON'T YOU FORGET IT!!
PAK

GULP
WHOOO
DAK
RA
AAAH
HAA !!

SHF
TAIWAN
WE'LL BUY YOU SOUVENIRS.
THANKS, MAGS!
ANITA ...
...SHE'S DOING ON HER OWN...
I WONDER HOW...

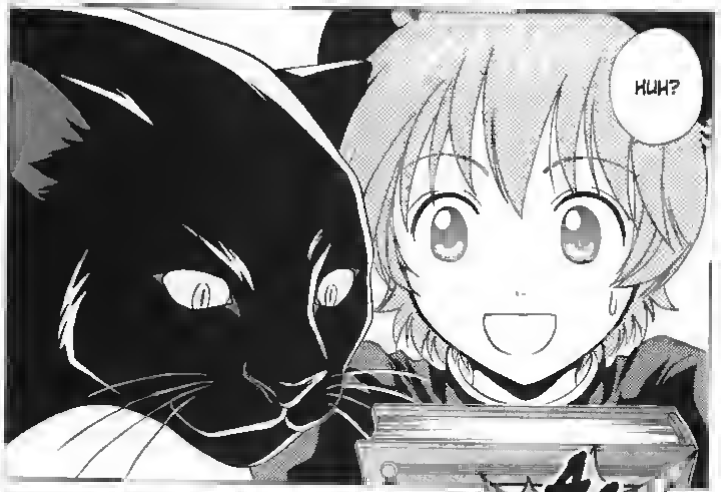
THIS IS THE PLACE!
THERE SHE IS!
SHUP
MAN, WHAT A MESS.
!!


GRIP
SKRRRK
TUK
TAP
TAP

I THINK I'LL TAKE A BATH.
THAT GIRL'S SUCH A SLOB!
CAN'T SMELL IT. OKAY...
THAT WEIRD POTION...
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
TAK
TRP

!!
ARGH... CAN'T FORGET THAT!
MM...
BAH
KLIK

WHEW...
NOW I CAN FACE MY SISTERS!

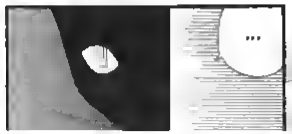

HUH?

AAARGH!
!?

!!
SPLAT
OH!

GOOD THING SHE'S SO DENSE.
I THOUGHT I WAS A GENIUS...
...
HA
HA

PAT
PAT


...

♪ THOUGH THE WORLD MAY END TOMORROW ...♪
...I'M HAPPY WITH TODAY ...♪
AHAA

WUP
WAM
!
RRR
ORION, YOU MUSTN'T EAT HER!
SLAM
OH! ANITA!

WAAH!
WHAT'S THAT ANIMAL DOING HERE?
PAKK
ZAK
ZAK
DAH
WAP

HE'S A PRECIOUS MEMBER OF MY FAMILY.
SHP
NICE WORK.
HOW'D YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS PLACE?
YOU'RE CERTAINLY BRAVE, AREN'T YOU?
SO YOU CAME TO RETRIEVE THIS.
BUT I'M IMPRESSED BY YOUR INITIATIVE AND COURAGE.
THAT'S A TRADE SECRET.
WELL... I THINK I HAVE AN IDEA.

WHAT'S WITH THIS THING?
HA HA HA
LILY!
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE A PET LIKE THIS, ARE YOU?
THAT'S MY PARTNER, ORION. HE FINALLY CAME HOME YESTERDAY.
ORION ISN'T A PET.
SHHF
SLP
SNAP

...
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I MAY BE POOR ...
...AND BORED ...

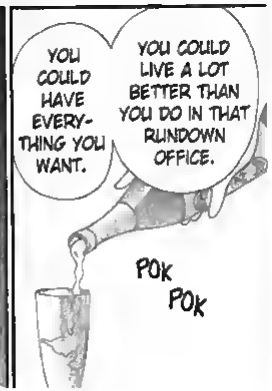
NOTHING BEATS BEING WITH MY SISTERS!
...BUT I LIKE MY HOME.

HUH?
JOINING YOU?
FUP
THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU SAY? HOW ABOUT JOINING US?

DON'T TRY TO SWEET-TALK ME!
HA HA HA HA
YOU'RE A LITTLE FOOLISH, BUT YOU'RE MORE CAPABLE THAN I THOUGHT.

YOU'LL HAVE THRILLS...AND EXCITEMENT... AND SPEC-TACLES...
YOU'LL FEEL ALIVE.


YOU COULD HAVE EVERY-THING YOU WANT.
YOU COULD LIVE A LOT BETTER THAN YOU DO IN THAT RUNDOWN OFFICE.
POK
POK

GRRWL!
BUT FIRST, ORION, GO TORMENT HER A BIT! ♪
GRRR...
BING
SWISH
HAH!
BAM
!?

IS THAT SO? OH, WELL.
SIP
I'D NEVER TEAM UP WITH A LIAR AND THIEF!
...WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND.
MAYBE A LITTLE LOVING CARE...
!!
SLP

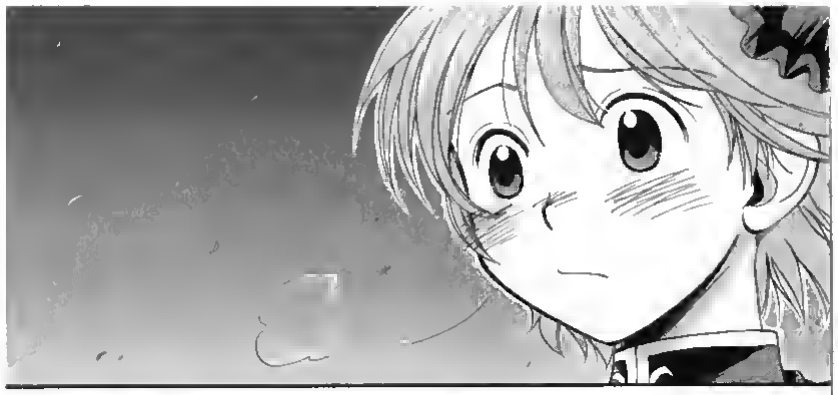
PEPPER FROM OUR KITCHEN!
WH-WHAT IS THIS?
ACHOO!
GORO
GORO
RAWR!
AH...
AH..
ACHOO!
DAMN!
OH!
SWISH
OH!
GRRRR...
THE BOTTLE'S THE ONE YOU LEFT BEHIND.
YOU GET WHAT YOU-- YOU-- ACHOO!

KRAK
IT'S PAYBACK TIME!
PO
OF
BOOOOOM
!?

TAF
BAM
WHAT?
LET'S MEET AGAIN, ANITA!
SMAK!♡
TAF
SHHHHHFF
ACHOO!

WHAT ABOUT THE BOOK?
!!
BANG
IS THE CLOCK DIARY OKAY?
BANG
!!
ZOOM
ACHOO!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE EVEN.
I'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MYSELF FOR TODAY!
SNF
OH!
NO WAY! AND DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY...
BUT I DO LIKE YOU, ANITA. LET'S MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY!

WE'RE BACK!
I'M WIPED OUT...
WE SISTERS REALLY ARE MADE FOR EACH OTHER, AREN'T WE?
I JUST RAN INTO MAGGIE OUT FRONT. WHAT A SURPRISE!
MICHELLE'S BAGS
YOU MUST'VE BEEN LONELY ALL BY YOURSELF.
AND I BROUGHT YOU FROG COOKIES.
I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT . A FROG.
HERE.
WELCOME HOME..



ACHOO!

CHAPTER 11

DID ANYTHING HAPPEN WHILE WE WERE GONE?
ANITA... WHAT'S WRONG ?
MM...
...
SHUP
NOTHING AT ALL.

ANYWAY, WE'RE TOO POOR TO AFFORD SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
SLP
SLP
GRR
THE HEAT OF SUMMER WILL PASS, BUT THE EXCITEMENT OF A BOOK LASTS A LIFETIME!
WHO CARES? I DON'T READ!
BUT WE CAN AFFORD TO BUY BOOKS
POP
WELL...
WHEW...
MAGGIE, GET ME ANOTHER POPSICLE, WILL YOU?
...IT REALLY IS HOT, ISN'T IT?

UGH...
MICH... IT'S SO HOT...
HEH HEH.
YOU'RE STILL SUCH A CHILD, ANITA.
C'MON, LET'S GET AN AIR CONDITIONER ...
HOW MANY BOOKS DO YOU THINK WE COULD BUY FOR THE PRICE OF AN AIR CONDITIONER ?

M-ZZZUD
TA DA!
OUR FIRST ANNUAL "BLOW THE HEAT OF SUMMER AWAY"...
!?
...NON-STOP, ALL-NIGHT, GHOST-STORY-TELLING COMPETITION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
SPLAT
OHH...

THEY'RE ALL GONE.
HM...
THP
WHAT ?
WAIT, I HAVE AN IDEA!
HERE'S A CHEAP WAY TO COOL OFF!
SPLISH
THIS IS SUCH A DRAG! I FEEL EVEN HOTTER NOW!
OH, NO! NO! POPSICLE... POPSICLE...

I GUESS I'LL STEP UP TO THE PLATE FIRST.
ARE YOU TWO READY?
HEH HEH HEH...
YOU'LL COOL OFF AS WE GO ALONG.
IT'S LIKE AN ENDURANCE CONTEST...
YUP
I HEARD THIS STORY FROM A FRIEND OF A FRIEND...
OH...THAT'S SO CORNY.

...
SO...
WE'RE SETTING THE MOOD. THE MOOD IS ALL-IMPORTANT TO A LADY.
NOW I'M EVEN HOTTER.
...WHY DID WE HAVE TO CLOSE THE WINDOWS AND DRESS UP?

BUT HE COULDN'T FIND HIM...SO HE FILED A MISSING PERSON'S REPORT WITH THE POLICE.
OF COURSE WHEN THE MAN DISCOVERED HIS SON WAS MISSING HE WENT RUNNING AROUND THE PLANT LOOKING FOR HIM
BUT THE BOY WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.
THE POLICE SEARCHED FOR THE BOY, EVEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF A KIDNAPPING.
FLIP FLIP
SOME DAYS LATER, WHEN THE MAN OPENED A MAGAZINE THAT HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO HIS HOUSE...
RUSTLE

A WORKER AT A MANGA PRINTING COMPANY BROUGHT HIS FIVE-YEAR-OLD SON TO WORK ONE DAY.
HE WANDERED DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE BUILDING.
THE BOY WAS FASCINATED WITH THE PLACE AND WHILE HE WAS PLAYING HE LOST HIS WAY.
AS HE FLOUNDERED, HE CALLED FOR HELP, BUT NO ONE CAME.
LOOKING FOR A WAY OUT, HE SLIPPED AND FELL INTO A HUGE TANK OF INK.

DADDY... GET ME OUT OF HERE...
I LOVE IT
WEAK STUDENTS

!!
UH HUH
NOT AT ALL.
SLUP
IF A BOY REALLY FELL INTO A TANK LIKE THAT, THE MACHINES WOULD BREAK, AND THEY'D FIND HIM.
IT'S TOTALLY UNREAL.
...WASN'T THAT SCARY?
NOW...
ER... OKAY
WELL, EXCUSE ME...
IT'S YOUR TURN NOW, MAGGIE.
SIGH...
SIGH...YOU JUST DON'T APPRECIATE THE INTRICACIES OF A GHOST STORY, ANITA.
I HEARD THIS FROM A FRIEND OF A FRIEND OF A FRIEND...

!!
EEEEEEK!
WAP
NOOO!
OUCH!
WHIMPER
OW! OWW!
MAGS!

IT WAS JUST ONE BOOK... THE THIRD VOLUME OF A LITERARY ANTHOLOGY.
HE STOLE A BOOK FROM HIS FRIEND'S COLLECTION.
...THE STUDENT GOT A JOB, GOT MARRIED, AND ENJOYED A HAPPY LIFE.
IN TIME ...
BUT THE STUDENT PLAYED INNOCENT, THINKING, "IT'S JUST ONE BOOK." SOON AFTER THAT, THEIR FRIENDSHIP ENDED.
OF COURSE HIS FRIEND SUSPECTED HIM.
...AND DIED OF STARVATION.
BUT HIS FRIEND SPENT ALL HIS MONEY ON BOOKS ...

ANITA!
STAB
BUT MAGS... YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
HE HAD A FRIEND WHO WAS A BOOK COLLECTOR WITH LOTS OF UNUSUAL BOOKS.
IT'S THE STORY OF A POOR COLLEGE STUDENT ...
ONE DAY, THE STUDENT RAN OUT OF MONEY ...

AT THAT INSTANT, HIS THIRD CHILD FELL, AS IF DRAGGED, INTO THE SEA...
!!
DAK
OH, NO!
WAM
MMPH!

JUST AS HE WAS ABOUT TO TAKE A PICTURE ON A CLIFF WITH A BEAUTIFUL VIEW...
ONE DAY, THEY WENT ON A FAMILY TRIP.
MANY YEARS LATER, THE MAN WAS LIVING HAPPILY WITH HIS WIFE AND FIVE CHILDREN. HE'D FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT HIS FRIEND
I'M GOING TO TAKE THE THIRD ONE

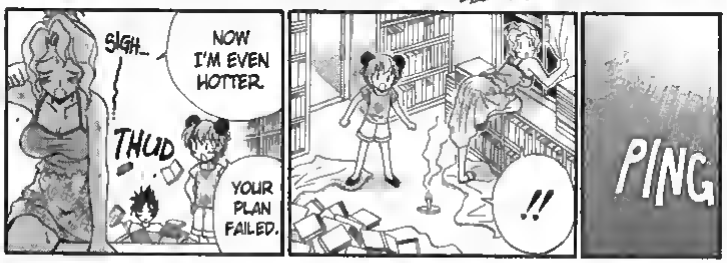
BZZZT!
BASH
NO REALITY AT ALL!
NO...I DIDN'T HEAR THAT HE DID.
BUT THE COLLECTOR NEVER CALLED THE POLICE?
I DON'T KNOW ...
WHY DIDN'T HE DO THAT?
IF IT WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT BOOK, YOU'D THINK HE'D GO STRAIGHT TO THE COPS.
...
IT'S YOUR TURN.
OF COURSE.
I HAVE TO TELL ONE, TOO?
...WHY DON'T YOU TELL US YOUR STORY, ANITA?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT...
OOPS!

GRMPH!
SQUISH
BANG
TOO HOT! I CAN'T BREATHE!
YIKES!
SO IF YOU STEAL A BOOK, YOU'RE SURE TO RECEIVE PUNISHMENT ...
OH... THAT POOR CHILD!
YEEK!
NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY LOOKED, THEY NEVER COULD FIND THE CHILD'S BODY.

...WHEN THE GIRL WENT TO HER MAIL-BOX...
BUT THE NEXT MONTH ...
NATURALLY, THE COMPANY WENT BANKRUPT, AND THE MAGAZINE WAS DISCONTINUED.
TO THIS DAY, THE GIRL LIVES IN FEAR OF THE MANGA THAT KEEP ARRIVING AT HER HOME
IT CONTAINED THE NEXT CHAPTERS OF ALL THE MANGA.
...A NEW ISSUE HAD BEEN DELIVERED!
HUH? COME ON!
AREN'T YOU SCARED ?
NO.
NUH UH.
OH...

THIS IS A STORY MY FRIEND...
...
OKAY... NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY.
SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
WHAT ?
...SAW ON TV.
...BUT ONE YEAR, A FIRE BROKE OUT AND ALL THE WRITERS AND EDITORS WERE KILLED.
EVERY YEAR, THE PUBLISHER HELD A PARTY FOR ITS STAFF...
THERE WAS A GIRL WHO LOVED A CERTAIN MANGA MAGAZINE.
SHE HAD IT DELIVERED TO HER HOUSE MONTHLY, ON THE DAY IT CAME OUT.

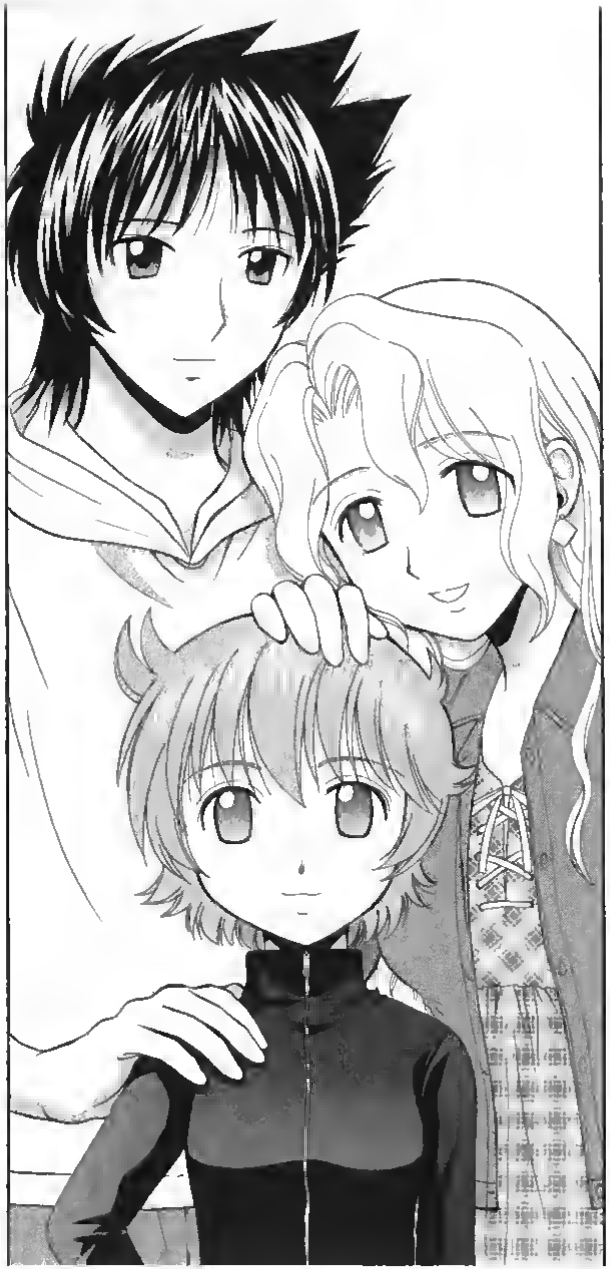
WHAM
THUMP
I TOLD YOU TO STRAIGHTEN UP THE ROOM!
OH!
I'LL OPEN THE CURTAINS!
THE LIGHTS, MAGGIE! THE LIGHTS!
THE CANDLE'S GONE OUT!
UH... OKAY...
TAKKA


SIGH...
NOW I'M EVEN HOTTER.
THUD
YOUR PLAN FAILED.
!!
PING

MAGS ?
OUCH...
MAGGIE ?

THE BOOKS GET SENT TO HER EVERY MONTH, FREE OF CHARGE. I ENVY HER!
NOD NOD
AND I'D BE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD READ THE NEW CHAPTERS!
SIGH... HOW LOVELY!
I SEE.
OH, I GET IT. THE JOKE IS THAT THEY WERE GHOST-WRITERS, RIGHT?
NO, THEY WEREN'T!
WAP
WAP
ANYWAY, YOUR STORIES WERE WAY LAMER!
THAT'S NOT WHAT THE STORY WAS ABOUT!
FSH
!?

CHAPTER 12



WHO ?
THEN WHO TURNED ON THE LIGHTS?
IT WASN'T EITHER OF YOU?
BAH
SHI
NG
EEEEEK!!
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THIS!
A G-G-GHOST!
NO!
THE END

WHICH OUTFIT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD WEAR?
NO, ER...
OH, MY!
WHERE ARE YOU TWO GOING?
IT'S NOT FAIR! TAKE ME WITH YOU!
IT DOESN'T MATTER ...
HUH ?
HUH ?
... WHERE TO?
SO...
IF YOU INSIST, ANITA. LET'S ALL GO TOGETHER.
OH NO
ALL RIGHT!

HUH ?
OH... ER...
ARE YOU GOING SOME-WHERE?
TELL ME! TELL ME, MAGGIE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, MAGS?
FILLING LUNCH-BOXES?

A BOOK-STORE?
LOOK AT ALL THE PEOPLE, MICHELLE
OH, MY!
LET'S HURRY, MAGGIE!
WAIT!
EXPLAIN THIS TO ME!
DAK
WHO'S THAT?
HE'S A FAMOUS BEST-SELLING AUTHOR.
YUNFAT'S LATEST BOOK, A HERO'S DIARY VOLUME 6...
...GOES ON SALE TOMORROW.
ONE BECOMES A COP AND THE OTHER A GANGSTER, AND THEY ALTERNATE BETWEEN FIGHTING AND HELPING EACH OTHER!
HE'S MOST NOTED FOR HIS "HERO'S DIARY" SERIES, ABOUT TWO BOYS WHO GROW UP TOGETHER.
OH, IT'S SO...
SO ROMANTIC.
...
HIS AUTOGRAPH IS VERY VALUABLE.
HUH?
WAIT A SEC...
WHENEVER YUNFAT COMES OUT WITH A NEW BOOK, THIS STORE SELLS AUTOGRAPHED COPIES ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.
AND WHY DO WE HAVE TO LINE UP?
YOU COULD JUST COME TOMORROW AND BUY IT.

GO AHEAD AND LINE UP, THEN.
I'M NOT A MANIAC.
CLAP
CLAP
YES!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
NO! NOT THAT YOU!
LET GO!
NO!
POW
POW
UGH!
NO! SINCE WE'RE HERE, LET'S ALL LINE UP TOGETHER!
GLOMP
OH!
ANITA!
I CAN'T HANG AROUND WITH YOU!
BAM
KNOCK IT OFF!

BAM
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT WOULD STAND IN LINE FOR 15 HOURS?
THE STORE DOESN'T OPEN UNTIL 9:00 A.M., RIGHT?
HEH HEH... YOU'RE STILL SO YOUNG, ANITA.
UM
GLARE
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A BIBLIO-MANIAC!
STANDING IN LINE AND SLEEPING UNDER THE STARS DOESN'T SCARE ME, OR WORRY ME, IF IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF A BOOK I WANT!
TA-DA

SHE HASN'T GOTTEN MUCH EXERCISE LATELY...
SHE THREW HER BACK OUT.
A FAMILY MEMBER SHOULD COME WITH US.
OH, YES ...
DON'T COME WITH ME!
NEVER MIND ME. STAY IN LINE!
GET THAT AUTO-GRAPH!

KRAK
BRR...
BR...
OH...
AAH...
MICHELLE ?
HUH ?
THUD
THAK

WEOO
WEOO
I'LL BE BACK LATER.
HERE'S THE FOOD.
I SAID I'D DO IT...
...BUT THERE'S 14 HOURS AND 45 MINUTES TO GO.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO FOR ALL THAT TIME?
UH...
IS THIS THE END OF THE LINE?
UH, YEAH, IT IS.
HUH?
OH!

OH...
GO WITH HER, MAGS.
HUH?
YOU MUST DO IT!
OH...
PLEASE REMAIN CALM!
JUST GO!
ANITA...
I'LL STAND IN LINE FOR YOU.

A NON-READER WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
...HOW PRECIOUS THAT NAME IS TO PEOPLE LIKE US.
...
HAVE YOU MADE ...
...ANY FRIENDS YET?
YOU!
IT'S YOU!
ANATA?
I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS WEIRD.
SO YOU'RE HERE FOR YOUR SISTERS?
THEY'RE THE WEIRD ONES
AN AUTOGRAPH IS JUST A NAME, RIGHT?

...WHY ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO DOESN'T READ BOOKS?
SAY...
I'M NOT INTERESTED, AND I HAVE LOTS OF OTHER THINGS TO DO.
NO REASON
PEOPLE DON'T DIE IF THEY GO WITHOUT BOOKS!
NEVER MIND!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTERS?
BAH
THANKS!
OH...
OTHER THINGS ?
ALL KINDS OF THINGS ...
OH...

SHUT UP! YOU CAN'T RUSH INTO STUFF LIKE THAT!
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
SO YOU HAVEN'T.
RIGHT NOW...
...I'M HAPPY WITH GRANDPA WONG'S BOOK.
FLIP
YOUR STOMACH'S SAYING, "BOOKS ALONE AREN'T ENOUGH."
GRWL

SLUMP
UH
UH
YIKES

SIGH
I GUESS THEY MIGHT DIE.
LIKE THESE PEOPLE HERE.
HM...
BUT ...
IT'S TRUE. PEOPLE WOULDN'T DIE, I GUESS.
...I THINK THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO'D GET LONELY ENOUGH TO DIE.
I WONDER WHY THEY LOVE BOOKS SO MUCH.
I WONDER ...
WELL...
...I GUESS EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN REASONS ...

I LIKE THINGS LIKE THIS BETTER.

...A WINDOW WITH A GREAT VIEW, AND THE SEA AND SKY...
...A HAPPY DREAM.
...DRINKING MILK, OR CHATTING WITH MY SISTERS...
LIKE THE MOON, OR THE SUN...

EVERYONE IN LINE!

H-HEY! WAKE UP!
THE LINE HAS GOTTEN VERY LONG, SO PLEASE MOVE UP!

MM...
COME ON. STAND UP.
OH.
HUH ?
HOW BEAUTIFUL...

YOU FED ME. NOW WE'RE EVEN.
NEVER MIND.
HEY, I DON'T NEED THIS.
SAY...
...IF YOU NEVER MAKE ANY FRIENDS...
...I WOULDN'T MIND BEING YOUR FRIEND...
STUPID...
HOW RUDE! WHAT A SNOB!
I DON'T WANT FRIENDS WHO CAN'T TALK ABOUT BOOKS.

AS LONG AS I HAVE THESE, I'LL NEVER BE LONELY
?
...
...THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THOSE AREN'T ENOUGH...
BUT...
FWSH
DUSO

I'M SORRY FOR TAKING SO LONG...
ANITA ...
HH
HH
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

CHAPTER 13

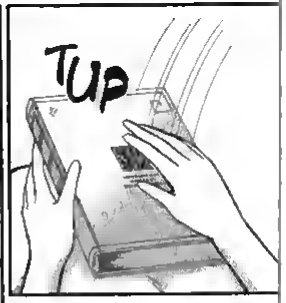
YAWN...
WE'D BETTER HURRY UP AND GET THIS TO MICH.
SHE'S PROBABLY TIRED OF THE HOSPITAL. THIS WILL MAKE HER HAPPY.
HEY..IS THIS BOOK REALLY THAT INTERESTING?
OF COURSE!
YOU SHOULD GIVE IT A TRY. I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
WELL, IF THE MOOD STRIKES ME...
HMPH.
WELL, SEE YOU.
WHEN DID YOU TWO BECOME FRIENDS?
W-WE'RE NOT!!
...YET...

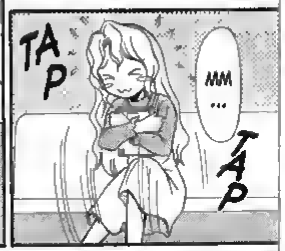
THAT'S RIGHT. YUNFAT'S A HERO'S DIARY, VOL. 6!
A Hero's Diary vol. 6
IT'S THAT AUTO-GRAPHED BOOK, ISN'T IT?

UH
YUP
EACH TIME YOU READ IT, YOU FIND MORE TO ENJOY.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TWO READ IT?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE SICK OF IT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN THE NEXT VOLUME WILL BE COMING OUT, YOU'VE GOT TO GET AS MUCH ENJOYMENT OUT OF IT AS YOU CAN.
BESIDES ...

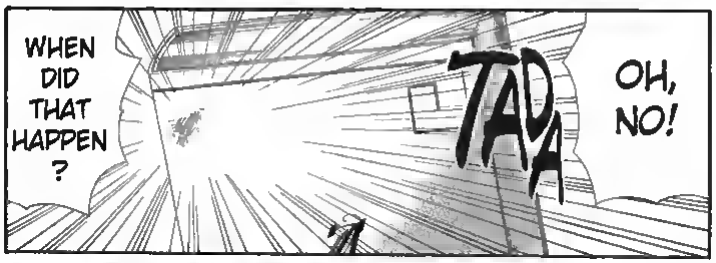
IT'S THE BEST, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I READ IT!
I WONDER WHAT'LL COME NEXT.
SIS...LET ME READ IT ONE MORE TIME...
SIGH
A Hero's Diary vol. 6


TUP


TAP
MM ...
TAP

YUP
SURE. BUT I WANT TO READ IT AGAIN AFTER YOU.

MICHELLE! WH-WHAT'S THAT?
HUH?
AH!
I STILL DON'T GET IT.
NEVER MIND. WE'LL JUST ENJOY IT OUR-SELVES.
RIGHT?


WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?
TADA
OH, NO!

ARGH
HO HO HO HO
UH HUH
SHALL WE BUY ANOTHER COPY TO READ BEFORE WE GET THIS ANY DIRTIER?

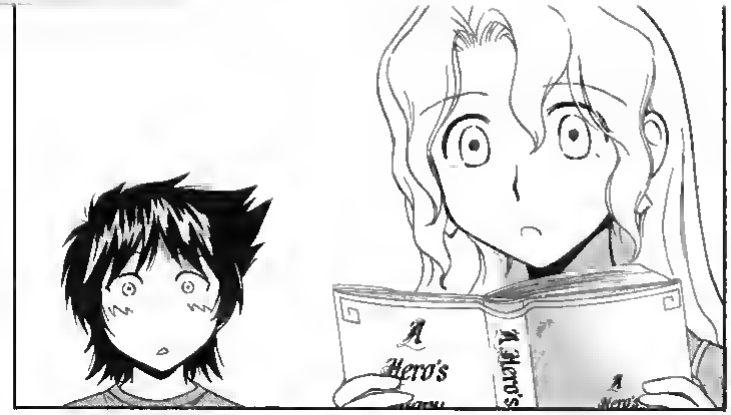
ALL WRITERS HAVE THEIR STRUGGLES.

WHY NOT? IS HE LAZY?
HUH?
YUN-FAT TAKES GREAT PAINS. TAKE HIS "GENTLEMAN GAMBLER" SERIES...
THERE HASN'T BEEN A NEW INSTALLMENT IN FOUR YEARS.

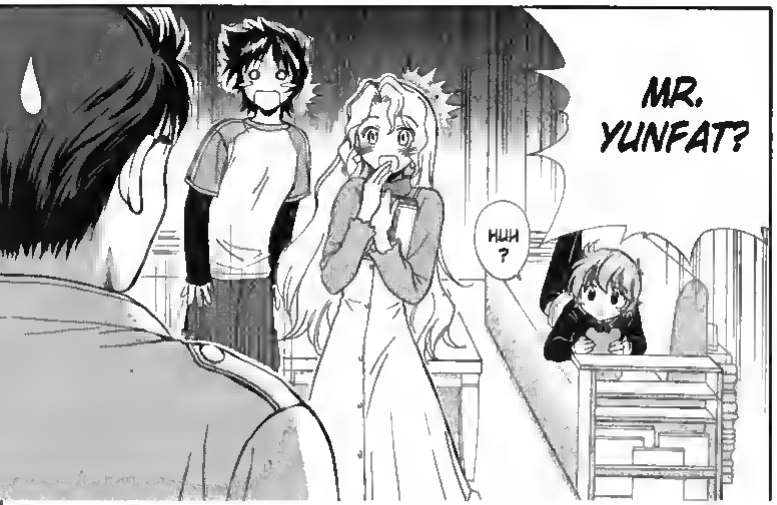
WHOA
DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM LIKE THAT!!

THEY'RE JUST MADE-UP STORIES.
HOW CAN YOU GET SO HOOKED ON 'EM?

EXCELLENT FICTION MOVES YOU IN A WAY THAT NON-FICTION CANNOT.

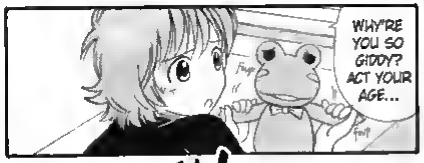

A Hero's

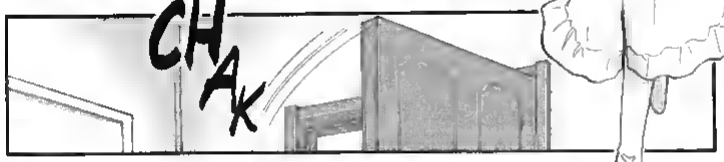
IS THIS PAPER SISTERS DETECTIVE COMPANY?

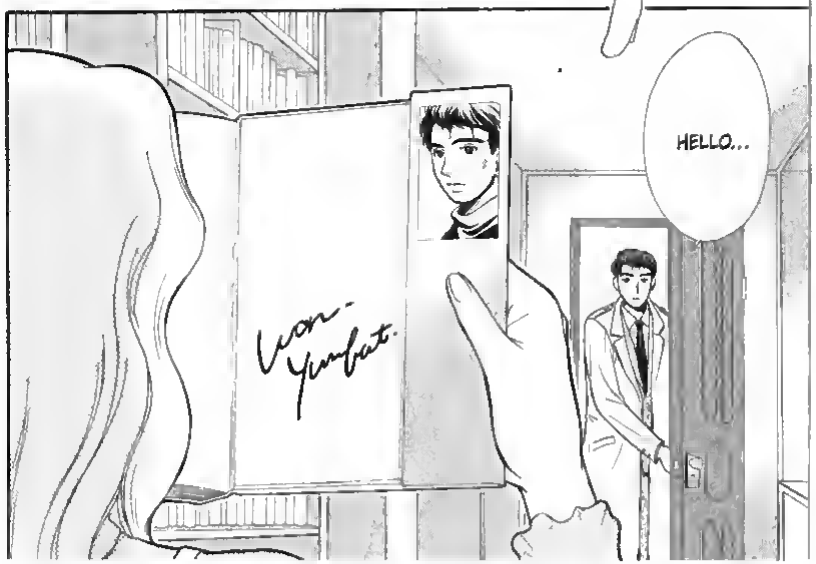

MR. YUNFAT?
HUH?

TEE HEE...
LA LA LA... ♫

WE HAVE TO KEEP IT NICE...
IT'S AN AUTO-GRAPHED COPY, AFTER ALL.


WHY'RE YOU SO GIDDY? ACT YOUR AGE...


CHAK

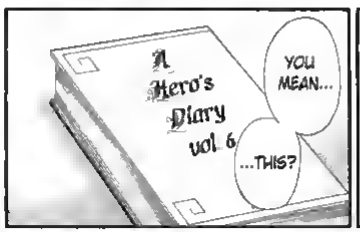

HELLO...
Won-Yunfat.

HA HA...
RIGHT? ♡
hey
!!
...
ANITA!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, ANY-WAY?
HE'S JUST AN ORDINARY GUY. THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT HIM.
I WANT YOU TO LOOK FOR A CERTAIN WRITER.

IT'S SUCH AN HONOR...
...TO HAVE YOU HERE WITH US!
UH...
VOLUME 6 WAS VERY INTEREST-ING...
OH... THANK YOU.
"IN HONG KONG, THE ONLY THING YOU CAN TRUST IS MONEY...
...BUT THE ONLY THING I'D PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE FOR IS *FRIEND-SHIP.*"
I'VE READ IT EIGHT TIMES ALREADY!
I'VE EVEN MEMORIZED THE DIALOGUE.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...I'VE BEEN IN A SLUMP. I'VE HAD TROUBLE CONTINUING MY STORY.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO FIND HIM?


A Hero's Diary vol 6
YOU MEAN...
...THIS?

GAH

I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM AND ASK HIM FOR HELP IN GETTING MYSELF OUT OF THIS PREDICAMENT.
YES. AS I SAT THERE STRUGGLING WITH MYSELF, I SUDDENLY THOUGHT OF MY MENTOR.

!?

IT WAS HIS WORK THAT MADE ME DECIDE TO BECOME AN AUTHOR.
I WANTED TO WRITE STORIES LIKE HIS, AND TOUCH PEOPLE THE WAY HE TOUCHED ME.
HIS NAME IS KON FU.
HE WAS A WRITER ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO.

NEITHER HIS EDITOR NOR HIS FRIENDS KNOW WHERE HE IS.

HE DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY AFTER RELEASING VOLUME 12 OF HIS "KING OF DEVILS" SERIES.

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY HE WAS MY MENTOR... ALTHOUGH I'VE NEVER MET HIM.

WAK
WAK
A-AT OUR NORMAL RATE...
NOD
NOD
OKAY, A LARGE DISCOUNT ...
HEY!
AT NO CHARGE, OF COURSE!
HUH ?
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

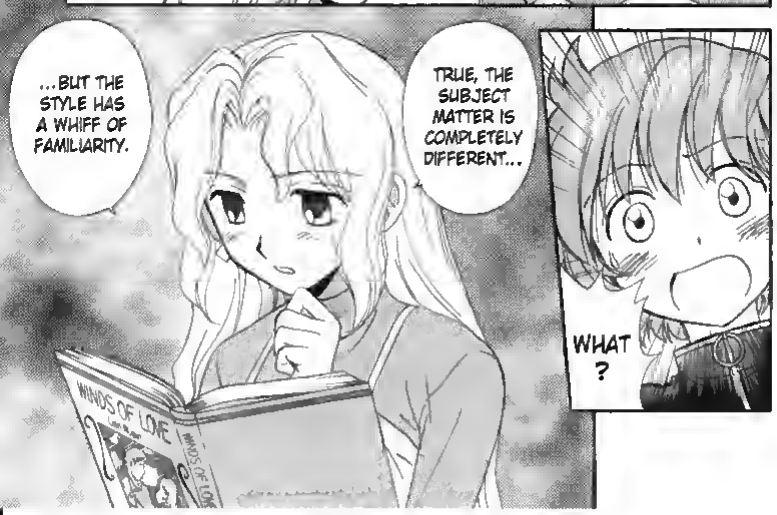
IF THIS CONTINUES, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WRITE ANYTHING NEW.
PLEASE HELP ME.
PLEASE! LIFT YOUR HEAD!
WE WILL GLADLY HELP YOU!
IF I CAN HELP YOU IN ANY WAY, I'LL BE DEEPLY HONORED, AS YOUR FAN!

KOFF
KOFF
THAT'S A LOT OF DUST!
THUD
HE'S THE MOST DIFFICULT TYPE TO TRACK DOWN.
THERE WAS NOTHING IN HIS BOOKS TO ATTRACT COLLECTORS.
FRANKLY, HE WASN'T ALL THAT POPULAR. THE MAGAZINES THAT CARRIED HIS SERIALS NO LONGER EXIST, NOR DO THEIR PUBLISHERS.
KON FU WROTE NOTHING BUT PULP GENRE FICTION.
EVERYONE HAS HIS REASONS ...
I WONDER WHY YUNFAT'S HUNG UP ON A WRITER LIKE THAT.

DON'T WORRY.
PAT
BUT HOW CAN WE FIND HIM?
HIS PUBLISHERS DON'T KNOW, DO THEY?
COME HERE, BOTH OF YOU!!
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT A MANIAC!!
BIBLIO-MANIACS HAVE THEIR OWN METHODS.

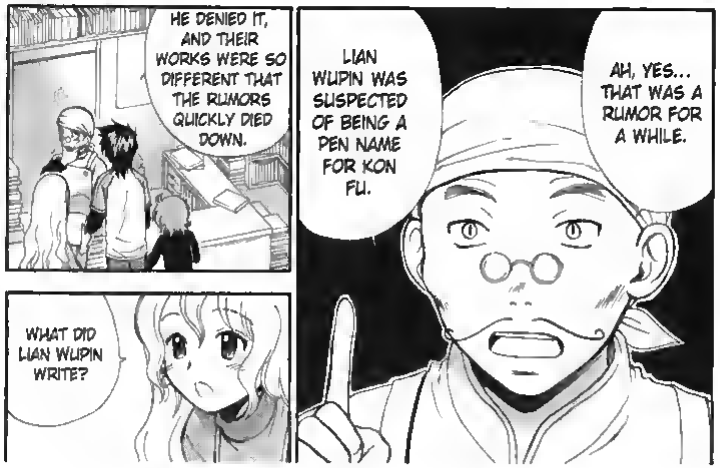
FLIP FLIP
HUH? THAT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
ROMANCES.
SHF
SO IT WASN'T TRUE, WAS IT?

SIS...
YES... THIS LOOKS SUSPICIOUS.


...BUT THE STYLE HAS A WHIFF OF FAMILIARITY.
TRUE, THE SUBJECT MATTER IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
WHAT ?
WINDS OF LOVE

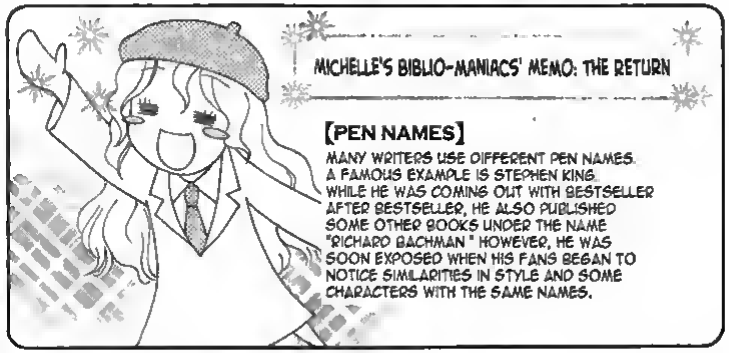
KON FU = LIAN WUPIN
!!
SIS, LOOK AT THIS.
...

OH, MY.


HE DENIED IT, AND THEIR WORKS WERE SO DIFFERENT THAT THE RUMORS QUICKLY DIED DOWN.
LIAN WUPIN WAS SUSPECTED OF BEING A PEN NAME FOR KON FU.
AH, YES... THAT WAS A RUMOR FOR A WHILE.
WHAT DID LIAN WUPIN WRITE?

AN ASSISTANT?
...JUST WHY DO I HAVE TO BE YOUR ASSISTANT?
AND...

IT'S A FEELING ...
YOU CAN TELL THAT?


MICHELLE'S BIBLIO-MANIACS' MEMO: THE RETURN
[PEN NAMES]
MANY WRITERS USE DIFFERENT PEN NAMES. A FAMOUS EXAMPLE IS STEPHEN KING. WHILE HE WAS COMING OUT WITH BESTSELLER AFTER BESTSELLER, HE ALSO PUBLISHED SOME OTHER BOOKS UNDER THE NAME "RICHARD BACHMAN." HOWEVER, HE WAS SOON EXPOSED WHEN HIS FANS BEGAN TO NOTICE SIMILARITIES IN STYLE AND SOME CHARACTERS WITH THE SAME NAMES.

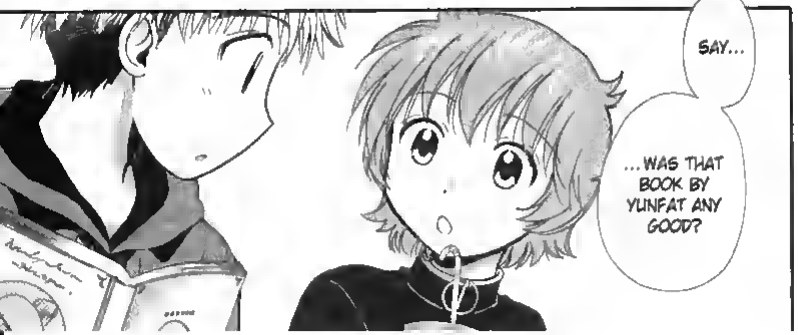
I DON'T CARE! I'M NEVER GOING TO BECOME A BIBLIO-MANIAC!
?
!!
BOOM
IN THESE MATTERS, YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR YOUR SISTERS.
OKAY.
HEY...
CAN I USE AN ASSISTANT?
LET'S SPLIT UP AND LOOK FOR ALL OF LIAN WUPIN'S BOOKS.
WE MIGHT HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF FINDING HIM THAT WAY.

WHEW!
I'M EXHAUSTED...
HUFF
FLIP
FLIP

LOVE STORIES ARE BORING.
DON'T YOU READ BOOKS LIKE THESE?
IT'S A TRADE SECRET.

I AGREE WITH YOU THERE...

...WHO IS THIS WUPIN GUY?
TELL ME...


SAY...
...WAS THAT BOOK BY YUNFAT ANY GOOD?

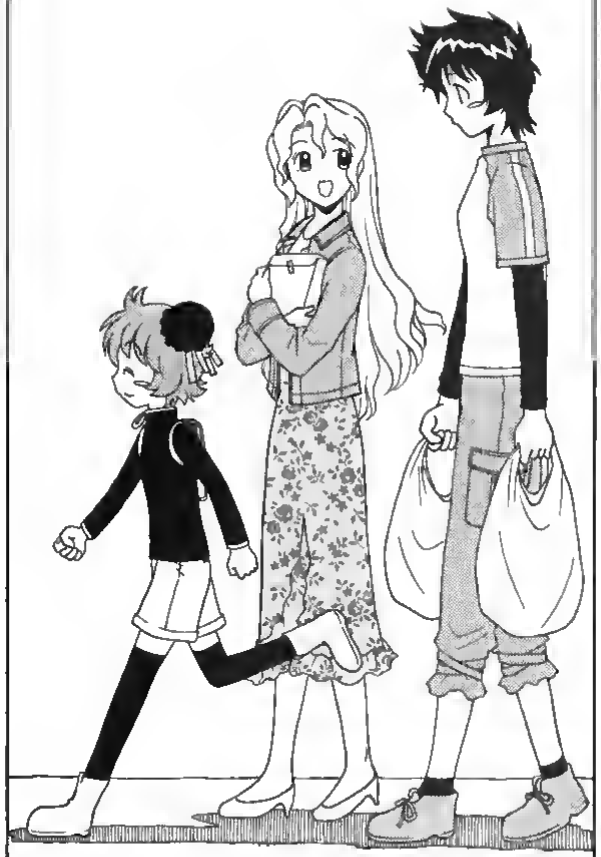
NO COMPLAINTS.
YOU'LL REALLY THANK ME LATER.

...

YES ...
I'M BACK.
SHH ...
YES ...
YES... THANK YOU.
AH
WE FOUND SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHERE WUPIN IS.
WHAT ?
!!
WUPIN IS...

HUH?
YEAH, IT WAS INTER-ESTING.
BUT...
BUT WHAT ?
...
BAH
COME ON, LET'S GO.
OH.
OKAY.
NO...
FORGET IT.
?

CHAPTER 14



YES. I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT LIAN WUPIN.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED?
I'M MICHELLE OF PAPER SISTERS DETECTIVE COMPANY.
I KNOW IT'S RUDE, BUT WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM?
ER ...
IF YOU DON'T MIND, CAN YOU TELL ME HOW HE DIED, AND WHERE HE'S BURIED?
I TOLD YOU, HE'S DEAD.
IS THAT ANY OF YOUR BUSINESS?
BAM!!

ARE YOU LIN?

!!
APP
APP
?
MICHELLE!
DATING
MR. YUNFAT!
THIS IS YUNFAT, THE NOVELIST.
HE'S THE ONE LOOKING FOR WUPIN.
HOW DO YOU DO?

IT IS OUR BUSINESS! THERE'S SOMEONE LOOKING FOR HIM!
OH
FWAP
FWAP
WHO? ANOTHER HACK JUST LIKE WUPIN?
BANG
CHOP
THAT'S RIGHT!
HOW DID YOU KNOW HIM ANYWAY, LADY?
OW OW
ANITA, YOU'RE BEING RUDE.

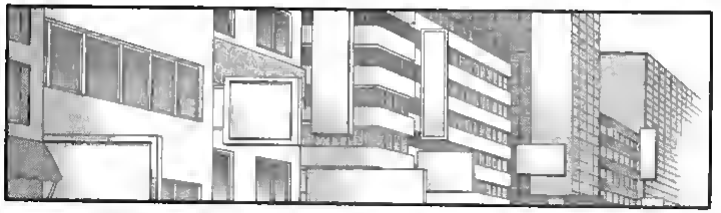
THAT RUMOR WAS TRUE.
THEN ...
YES. BOTH ARE DEAD.
MAYBE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNEW FOR SURE WAS MY FATHER, WHO WAS THEIR EDITOR.
LIAN WUPIN AND KON FU WERE THE SAME PERSON. THERE WEREN'T MANY WHO KNEW THAT.

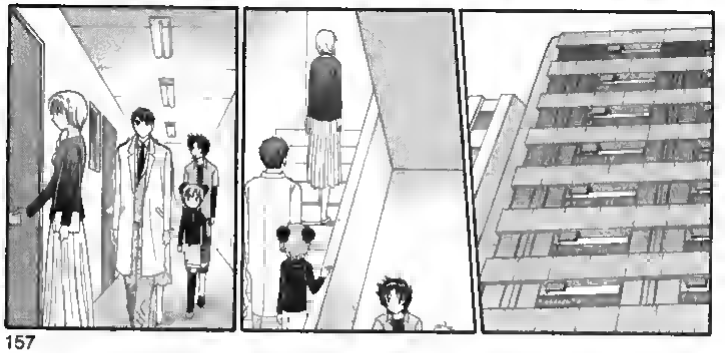
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE RUMOR THAT HE AND WUPIN WERE THE SAME PERSON...
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF THE WRITER KON FU.
...BUT PLEASE TELL ME... WAS THAT RUMOR TRUE?
PLEASE... PLEASE TELL ME.
I JUST HAD A FEELING THAT IF I COULD MEET THE WRITER I'VE BEEN A FAN OF FOR SO LONG, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEARN SOMETHING FROM HIM.
I'VE HIT A CASE OF WRITER'S BLOCK.
...
BEFORE I ANSWER... WHY DO YOU WANT TO MEET HIM?

I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIS GRAVE.
FOLLOW ME.

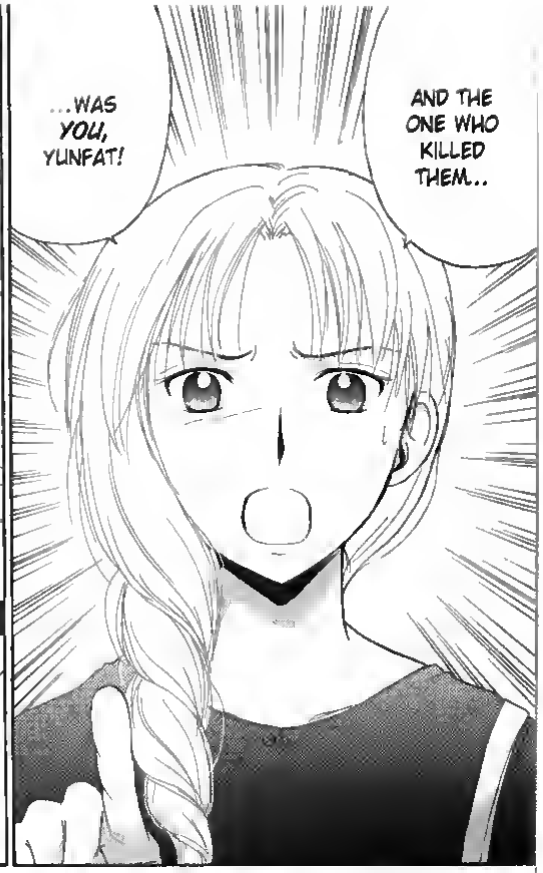
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

OH...





!?


...WAS YOU, YUNFAT!
AND THE ONE WHO KILLED THEM..

OH..
UGH!

OH, MY!
YUCK!

THIS IS...
...VOLUME 13 OF KING OF DEVILS!

THIS ROOM IS...

IS THIS YOUR HOME?

PARDON ME...
?

CHAK

THIS WAY.

I...
I WAS BOTH KON FU AND LIAN WUPIN.
!?
SO THEY WERE *BOTH* PEN NAMES?
THAT'S AMAZING ...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU!

THE PLACE WHERE THEY BOTH LIE DEAD.
...KON FU'S STUDY... AND LIAN WUPIN'S.
AH...
WAS HE PERHAPS ...
...YOUR HUSBAND ?
NO, ALTHOUGH MY HUSBAND IS DEAD, TOO.

WHEN I WAS AT MY LOWEST POINT, YOU MADE YOUR APPEARANCE.
IT MADE ME WONDER, "WHAT AM I DOING?"
YOUR DEBUT STORY, "STRUGGLE OF THE ELEMENTS," WAS AMAZING.
I'M SORRY. THE WRITER YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR DIED A LONG TIME AGO.
MS. LIN ...
...
I WAS JUST A WRITER OF DIME NOVELS.
FOR YEARS, I'VE SUFFERED WHAT YOU'RE SUFFERING, AND I HAVEN'T FOUND MY WAY OUT.
THERE IS NOTHING THAT I CAN TEACH YOU.

I DECIDED TO BECOME A WRITER AFTER READING YOUR WORK.
I'M SO HONORED TO MEET YOU!
OH...
SHF
CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME...
...WHY HAVEN'T YOU PUBLISHED THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF KING OF DEVILS?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS EVER SAID THAT TO ME IN PERSON.
THANK YOU.
WRITING HAD BEEN EASY UNTIL THEN, BUT SUDDENLY NOT A SINGLE WORD WOULD COME TO ME.
I'M JUST LIKE YOU. ONE DAY, I COULDN'T WRITE ANYMORE.

...BUT WE'RE WAITING.
CHK
WE'RE WAITING FOR THE NEXT BOOK FROM OUR FAVORITE AUTHOR.
WE CAN WAIT YEARS, EVEN DECADES.
AFTER ALL...
SHF
WE LOVE THAT PERSON.
READERS FALL IN LOVE WITH THE WORK AND WITH THE WRITER.
SO PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING SO SAD AS THAT YOU'VE DIED...

...DON'T YOU GET RID OF ALL THESE BOOKS?
THEN WHY...
!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT A WRITER WORRIES ABOUT, OR STRUGGLES WITH...
WHAT CAN A CHILD KNOW?
YOU CAN'T GIVE IT UP. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HANGING ON TO YOUR MANUSCRIPTS, RIGHT?

...
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BARGED IN ON YOU LIKE THIS.
I'VE LEARNED FROM YOU.
?
NOT AT ALL.
IT'S NO PROBLEM. I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HELP.

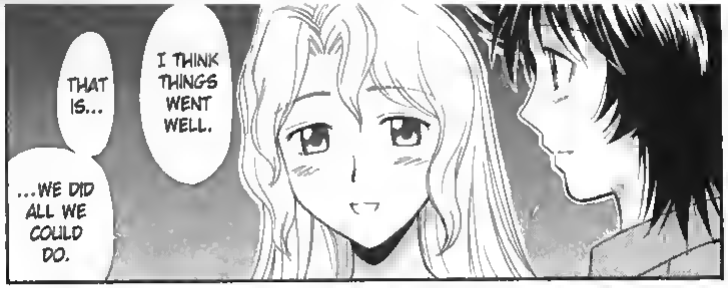
I'D LIKE TO READ YOUR BOOKS.
I LOVE THE BOOKS BY WUPIN.
YOUR READERS ARE WAITING.
I DON'T READ BOOKS ...
...BUT ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU CAME BACK TO LIFE?

...
PLEASE SIGN VOLUME 13 FOR ME.
SHA
SHA
SHF
WHEN I MET WUPIN, I WAS GOING TO ASK HIM FOR AN AUTOGRAPH.
Liao Wupin

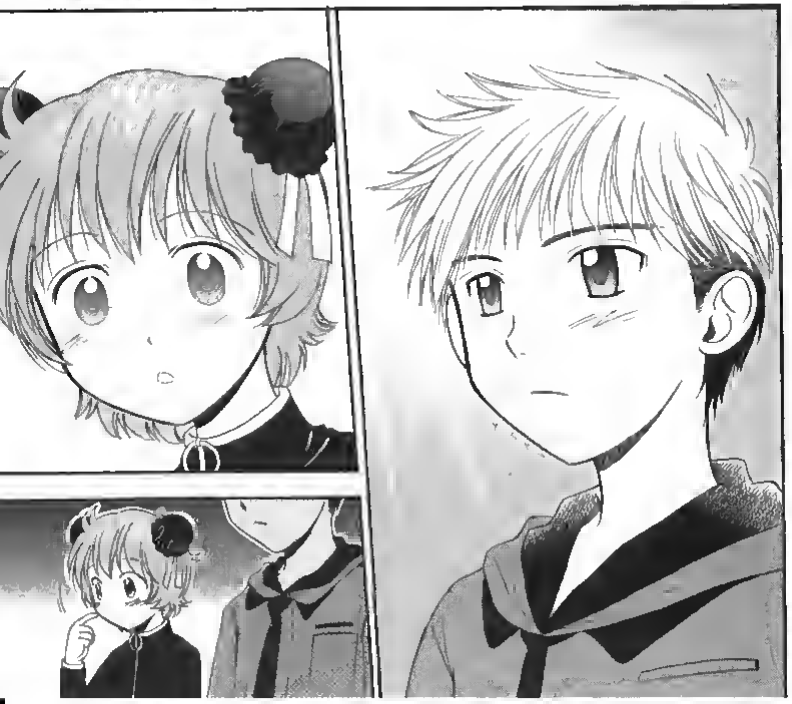
I'LL WAIT YEARS, IF I MUST.
YOU ARE MY MENTOR. ONE DAY, I'D LIKE YOU TO SHOW THIS LOWLY APPRENTICE YOUR NEW BOOK.
I JUST WANT TO SAY THIS.

I THINK WHAT THAT GIRL SAID IS TRUE.
I TOLD HER I WAS BORROWING THEM!
DON'T GO TAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S BOOKS!
WAK

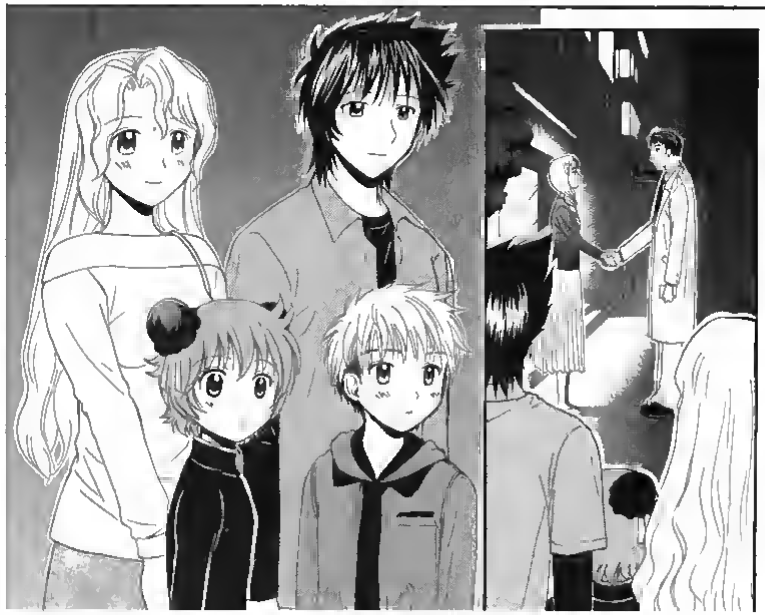
ANYWAY, YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN UP YET.
HEY...
A WRITER ISN'T DEAD AS LONG AS HE HAS HOPE.
NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS...
...HE CAN RETURN TO HIS READERS.


I THINK THINGS WENT WELL.
THAT IS...
...WE DID ALL WE COULD DO.

WRITERS ARE REGULAR PEOPLE, AFTER ALL...



...



WE'RE GIVING YOU ALL OF THE BOOKS BY LIAN WUPIN THAT WE FOUND.
IT'S A SPECIAL BONUS.
HERE, MR. YUNFAT
YOU'LL CRY. YOU'LL LAUGH. YOU'LL BE MOVED.
A...A ROMANCE...
MINDS OF LOVE
HUH?
UH... UH...
SAY, DON'T YOU WANT HIS AUTOGRAPH? HE'S THE REAL THING.
THANK YOU
?
I'LL DO IT NEXT TIME.

SHF!!
A Hero's Diary vol. 1
MINDS OF LOVE
The History of the Qin

CHAPTER 15

DESERT ISLE ②

THE END

DESERT ISLE ①

CHAPTER 15

OH.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

HOW ARE WE GOING TO PAY FOR FOOD THIS MONTH?
SIGH
OH, DEAR... I DID IT AGAIN.
OH, NO!
I'M GOING TO BE MAD!
YAH
GRRRR
I'M SURE SHE WILL...
POP
I WONDER IF ANITA WILL BE MAD.
OHH... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
!
THAT'S IT!
?

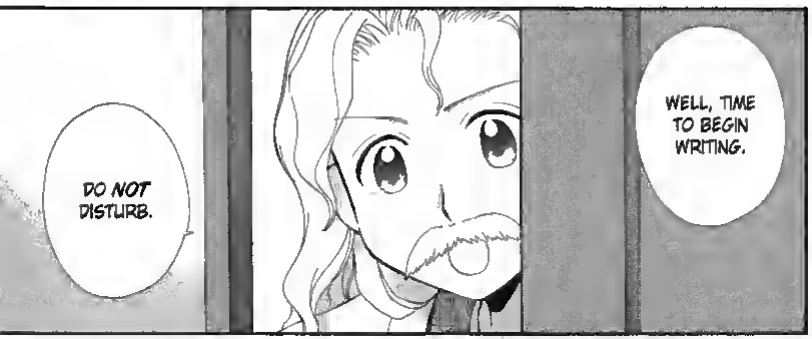
WAPPA
...IT IS!
ULTRA DASH
NEW TEEN NOVELIST AWARD
AWARD $50,000
YOUR CHANCE TO GRASP YOUR DREAM!!
TA-DA
HERE...
HEH HEH HEH
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE STILL A CHILD, ANITA.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOUR SISTER WOULD WASTE OUR FOOD EXPENSES WITHOUT A PLAN?
WHY, THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL.
I'VE THOUGHT IT OUT CAREFULLY!
YEAH.
ACTUALLY, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D DO.
THE ULTRA DASH NEW TEEN NOVELIST AWARD?
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS... WIN $50,000?

LISTEN...
...DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO BUY ANY MORE BOOKS THIS MONTH?
WHEN I WALKED INTO THE BOOKSTORE, I TURNED TO JELLY...
WHY CAN'T YOU FOLLOW ORDERS?
RAAAH
BRR...
BRR...
I JUST COULDN'T RESIST...
DON'T PRAISE HER!
NO MATTER HOW INTERESTING IT IS, IT WON'T FILL AN EMPTY STOMACH, WILL IT?
ALL THE BOOKS SHE CHOSE LOOK REALLY INTERESTING.
BUT YOU'VE GOT GOOD TASTE, SIS
BASH
BASH
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WAAH ...

MAGGIE, YOU MUSTN'T FEAR FAILURE EVEN BEFORE THE FIGHT HAS BEGUN. ♪
THOSE WHO FORGET THEIR DREAMS GROW OLD BEFORE THEIR TIME.
PAT
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER TO KEEP WORKING AT OUR DAY JOB?
!
SHAAA
MICH! HEY!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
YOU'RE AMAZING SIS...
TUP
TA-DA

THE BOOKS WE BUY WILL INSPIRE US FURTHER ...
BAH
...SO WE CAN MAKE MORE MONEY AND BUY MORE BOOKS...
THEN WE CAN USE THE MONEY WE EARN ON MORE BOOKS!
THAT'S RIGHT. GONE ARE OUR DAYS OF ONLY SPENDING MONEY ON BOOKS!
WE MUST SHIFT OUR SIGHTS TOWARD MAKING MONEY FROM THEM!
ISN'T THIS A CALL FOR MANU-SCRIPTS ?
BUT, MICHELLE... HAVE YOU EVER WRITTEN A NOVEL?
IT'S A NIGHT-MARE...
OH, IT'S LIKE A DREAM!
IT'S A PERPETUAL-MOTION MACHINE OF BOOKS!
LOTS OF PEOPLE WILL BE ENTERING, RIGHT?
MICHELLE, THIS ISN'T ...
IT'S IDIOTIC... BEYOND IDIOTIC...
HO HO HO
WHICH MEANS WE HAVE LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES!
NO, I HAVEN'T!

YOU'RE NOT A TEEN, MICH.
HMPH!
I CAN DRAW ON THE EXPERIENCES OF ADULTHOOD TO CREATE STORIES THAT WILL SPRING SURPRISES ON THE HEARTS OF THE YOUNG.
YOU CAN CALL IT IMAGE TRAINING!
NEVER MIND! YOU HAVE TO GET INTO FORM FIRST, TO BUILD UP THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE!
ULTRA DASH
BUT WHAT THEY WANT ARE LIGHT NOVELS FOR TEENS.



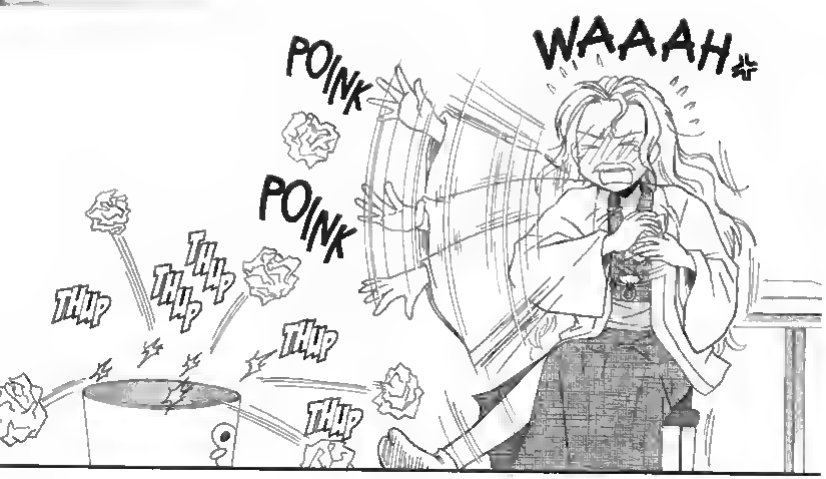
WELL, SHE'S ALL FIRED UP, SO LET'S GIVE HER OUR SUPPORT.
THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?
...
I THINK YOU HAVE TO WAIT SEVERAL MONTHS.
ARE AWARDS LIKE THIS GIVEN OUT RIGHT AWAY?
SLAM
WHOA

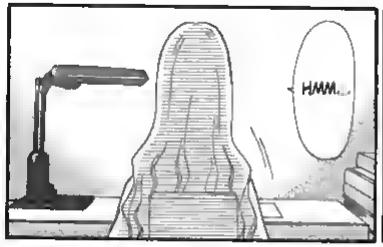
DO ON
WORKING ON HIS MAGNUM OPUS!
YUKIO MICHEMA!*
WHY DO YOU HAVE A MUSTACHE?
AND A JAPANESE ONE, AT THAT. .
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I LOOK LIKE A WRITER FROM ANY ANGLE!
WHY DO YOU HAVE A MALE PEN NAME?
WHAT IS THAT?

*YUKIO MISHIMA WAS A FAMOUS JAPANESE NOVELIST.

SKT
SKT
SKT
SHE'S STARTING TO WRITE SOME-THING...
OH... SHE'S STRUGGLING.
SHING
SKCH
SKCH
SKCH
!!
BAM

KREEK
I THINK I'LL PEEK IN ON HER...
IS SHE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?
OH, ANITA ...
HM...

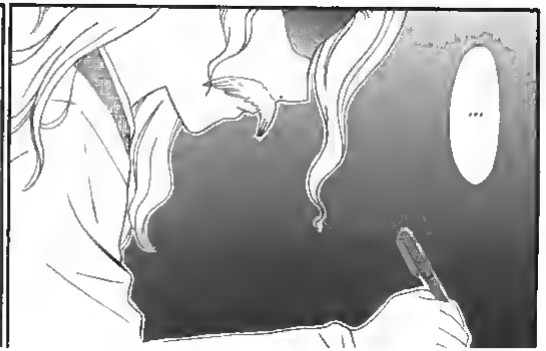

WAAAH
POINK
POINK
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP
THUP


HMM...

WHAT A THING FOR A PAPER SISTER TO DO!
OHH... WHAT A WASTE OF PAPER..

LOOK, SHE'S FINALLY GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS.

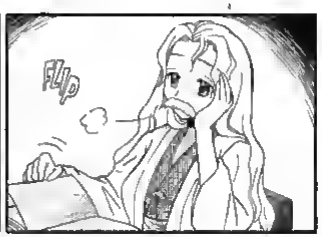
!!
ZZZZ
NOD
SLIP

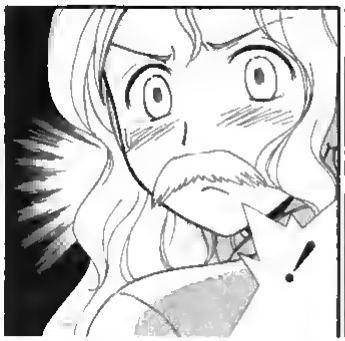

...

WHO KNOWS?
WH-WHAT IS SHE DOING?
HAHA
HAHA

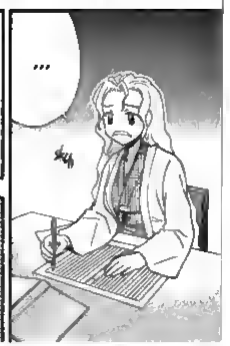
RIBBIT
ANITA-FROGGIE!

MICHELLE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH STICK-TO-ITIVENESS...
SHE'S STARTED READING A BOOK...
SHE'S GETTING BORED ALREADY!

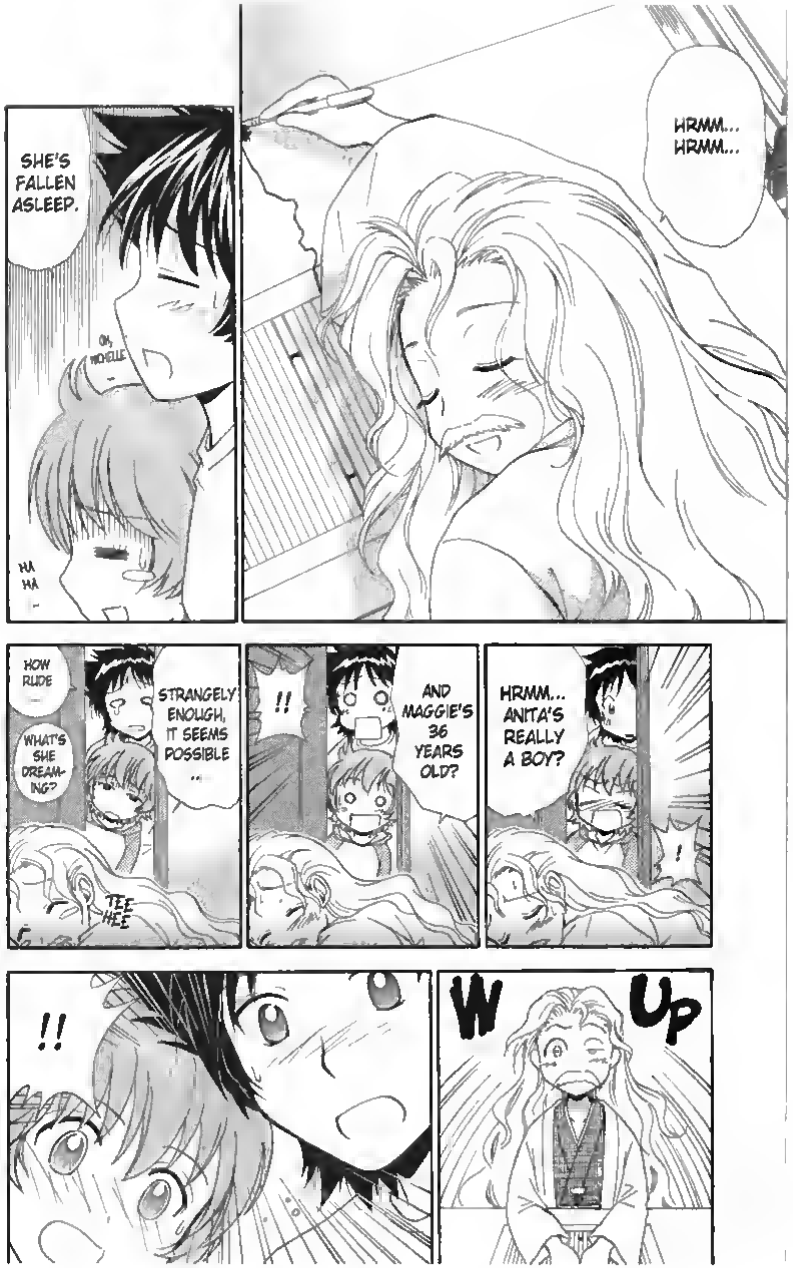

FLIP


!

WAD
WAD
POINK
THUP


...

CHAK
OH, NO! SHE'S COMING OUT!
PLOP
TUP TUP
CREATIVE WORK IS VERY DELICATE ...
SIGH...
WHAP
WHAT PART OF IT ?
OW...


SHE'S FALLEN ASLEEP.
OH, MICHELLE...
HA HA...
HRMM... HRMM...
HOW RUDE...
WHAT'S SHE DREAMING?
TEE HEE
STRANGELY ENOUGH, IT SEEMS POSSIBLE ..
!!
AND MAGGIE'S 36 YEARS OLD?
HRMM... ANITA'S REALLY A BOY?
!
!!
W
UP

THE MAN IS A LONE-WOLF ASSASSIN
THE GIRL IS A 12-YEAR-OLD KUNG-FU MOVIE STAR.
WHILE FILMING A MOVIE, THE GIRL MEETS UP WITH THE ASSASSIN WHO WAS INJURED AFTER A FAILED JOB!
I...I'M A KILLER?
HEY, DON'T GO USING PEOPLE WITHOUT PERMISSION!
...BUT THE GUY SAYS HE HAS TO KILL ANYONE WHO HAS SEEN HIS FACE!
THE GIRL TAKES CARE OF HIM...
IT'S NOT ME!
PRETTY LOW, MAGS...

WE DIDN'T DISTURB YOU! LAZYBONES! AIRHEAD!
MICHELLE, WHY DON'T YOU AT LEAST MAKE A ROUGH OUTLINE?
YOU WERE WATCHING ME? I TOLD YOU NOT TO DISTURB ME!
YOU WERE SITTING THERE DOING NOTHING!
A LOVE STORY, I'D THINK. HOW ABOUT A STORY OF FIRST LOVE?
HM... ACTUALLY, THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING.
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF STORY WOULD GRAB THE FEELINGS OF YOUNG PEOPLE...
YES... HOW ABOUT THIS?
I'LL CHANGE THE FORMAT A LITTLE TO BRING OUT FRESHNESS!
THAT WOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH OF AN IMPACT.

THIS IS AWFUL
SURPRISE!
WHAT?
WHO SHOULD APPEAR BEFORE THE SORROWFUL YOUNG GIRL...
OH! A FATAL MISTAKE!
THERE'S MORE?
SURPRISE!!
POP
YOU'RE EVEN USING YOUR OWN NAME?
AND HER NAME IS MICHELLE!
POOF
...BUT A LOVING ANGEL FROM ABOVE!
WHOM DID YOU KILL? THIS GOLD ASSASSIN? THIS SILVER ASSASSIN?
THIS BRONZE ASSASSIN? THIS RED ASSASSIN?
THIS POLKA DOT ASSASSIN?
THIS RAINBOW-COLORED ASSASSIN?

HI-YAH!
HOW-EVER...
WHAM
SHE KICKS HIM AND PUNCHES HIM, TEARS AT HIM AND TOSSES HIM, FOLDS HIM UP AND TURNS HIM INSIDE OUT!
...ANGERED, SHE TURNS ON HIM!
POW
DAKKA
BLAH
GO, GO, KUNG-FU STAR!
YAH!
BUT THE WIND OF NOTHINGNESS BLOWS IN HER BREAST...
FIGHTING IS ALWAYS FUTILE...

IF YOU WRITE A STORY BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BECOME AN AUTHOR, YOU'VE GOT IT BACKWARDS.
!!
SHOULDN'T YOU BECOME AN AUTHOR BECAUSE YOU HAVE A STORY YOU WANT TO WRITE?
SHING
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE, ANITA! I'LL LET THESE OVERWHELMING FEELINGS GUSH FORTH ONTO PAPER!
...
WAA
I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE BROKEN THROUGH A WALL AS A WRITER.
THAT'S TRUE. IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID, ANITA. YOUR WORDS MAKE ME REMEMBER MY ROOTS.
THERE'S NO WALLS... THERE'S NO ROOTS...

NO! I DON'T WANT THEM!
I WILL GIVE THIS HONEST KUNG-FU STAR 101 ASSASSINS.
WAAA'AAH
ONE VERSUS 101! THE KUNG-FU STAR'S FIGHT HAS JUST BEGUN!
DON'T LET IT CONTINUE!
TO BE CONTINUED!
NOBODY WOULD READ A THROWN-TOGETHER STORY LIKE THAT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THERE'S NO FIRST LOVE IN THAT STORY, SIS.
OH? WHEN DID THAT HAPPEN?

LOOKS LIKE IT. I DON'T SEE IT ANY-WHERE...
WHAT WAS THE TITLE?
SO WHAT? SHE DIDN'T WIN AFTER ALL?

WHAT ?
I TOLD HER NOT TO USE MY NAME WITHOUT PERMISSION !
DON'T YELL AT ME...
"PAMPERED CHILD ANITA'S PURE LOVE STORY."

HELLO, BABY SISTERS!
CHAK
WHAT'S SHE DOING?
WHERE'S MICH?

...
CLAP
CLAP
AND THEN I'LL CAPTURE THAT REWARD!

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

ULTRA DASH NEW TEEN NOVELIST AWARD
RESULTS ANNOUNCED!!!

STAFF

Yasuyo Hirokane
Ai Udegawa
Taichi Sotoyama

EDITOR
Kunio Kondo

SPECIAL THANKS
Akihiro Yamada
MAGI

(Acknowledgements deleted...)

Ran Ayanaga

http://members.jcom.home.ne.jp/0724236901/

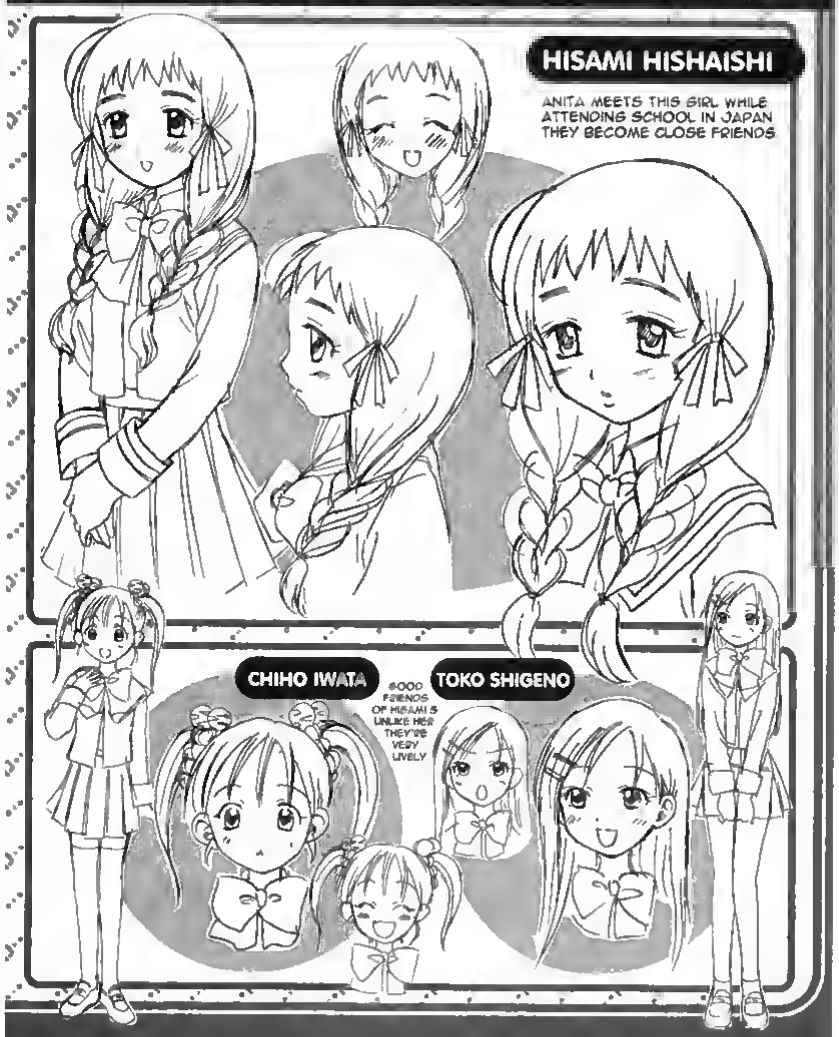
May you be protected by paper

*MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA IS THE CREATOR
I'M COUNTING ON YOUR SUPPORT!
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, I'LL WORK TOWARD BECOMING THE COMIC WRITER FOR THE NEW AGE!
KA-CHING!!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE ...
AND... HUH?
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3

R.O.D -THE TV-

•AYANAGA WORKS•

THESE ARE THE ORIGINAL DESIGNS BY MS. AYANAGA USED IN THE CREATION OF THE R.O.D. TV SERIES!


HISAMI HISHAISHI
ANITA MEETS THIS GIRL WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL IN JAPAN. THEY BECOME CLOSE FRIENDS.
CHIHO IWATA
TOKO SHIGENO
GOOD FRIENDS OF HISAMI'S. UNLIKE HER, THEY'RE VERY LIVELY.

Director: That story about the space alien? I wondered what in the world you were doing. (Laughter)
Kurata: Space aliens are a specialty I often fall back upon. (Laughter)
Editor: Now that you mention it, Ms. Ayanaga said that when she first saw the animation, she was cowed by the movements of the three sisters. But it looks like she knows what she's doing now.
Kurata: Is that so?
Director: It's a learning experience for me, too.
Kurata: As the writer of the original story, having everyone influencing each other in a positive way is more than I can ask for.
Ochikoshi: In the anime version, Ms. Ayanaga has helped us out by creating the original character designs. Please buy the DVD and check them out.

Will demons laugh? [5]

Editor: And do you have any plans for the sequel that everyone's wondering about?
Director: Well, we're still in the middle of production, so...
Kurata: We'll think about it after this one is done. What we do know at this point is that **R.O.D** still worked even when we switched the main characters from Yomiko to the three sisters, so I think there's room for change in the next version. But, actually, it all depends on what Aniplex decides to do. (Laughter)
Ochikoshi: By all means, do that. And in order to make this a great work, we would like everyone to please buy the DVD. (Laughter)
All: Enough, already... (Laughter)

Well, it's almost time to go.

Editor: Then shall we wrap things up?
Kurata: The novel and manga versions of **R.O.D** are still continuing,[6] so I hope you will all keep supporting us.
Ochikoshi: Whatever you do, please buy our DVD.
Director: By the way, just how much money did Aniplex make on [redacted], anyway?
Ochikoshi: Well... ha ha ha...
Editor: Whatever you do...
All: ...please continue to support us.

1. A popular actress.
2. The immensely successful **Fullmetal Alchemist** anime series came out at about the same time as the **R.O.D** anime series.
3. There are two **R.O.D** anime. The first was a three-episode OVA (original video animation) featuring Yomiko Readman, who also appears as the main character in the **Read or Die** manga. Later Aniplex produced a television anime series based loosely on the **Read or Dream** manga. The TV series is the main topic of discussion in this interview.
4. Another popular actress.
5. An old Japanese adage says, "If you talk about next year demons will laugh." It's similar to the English saying, "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched."
6. **R.O.D** started as a series of novels published by Super Dash, the prose imprint of manga publisher Shueisha (which also publishes the **R.O.D** manga). "Ultra Dash," the publisher to which Michelle sends her novel in Chapter 15, is a reference to Super Dash.

(Laughter)
Director: In the end, almost everything we decided on at our overnighters got changed, even the Tibetan story.
Kurata. Oh, yes... There was a story set in Tibet, wasn't there?
Director: We ended up using the TV show **I Love Cats, After All** for ideas, as Kurata had asked us to, and came up with three sisters with rather unusual personalities.
Ochikoshi: Did you all notice that the placement of the furniture in Nenene's living room is the same as that in **I Love Cats, After All**? Please buy the DVD and check it out.
Kurata: Who are you talking to?
Director: That's a capable producer for you...

Do we have any "bonds"?

Editor: Because it was designed after **I Love Cats, After All**, this work seems to have a very different tone from the previous **R.O.D** stories with Yomiko.
Director: Well, it would've been impossible to do 26 episodes of that OVA version on television (laughter), so we created a more dialogue-based story, with action woven in.
Kurata: If we'd had only dialogue, there would've been a lot of blank spaces. Those three spend all their time reading, you know. (Laughter)
Director: The main motif--or theme, rather--was "bonds." In the previous work, we dug deep into the bonds of friendship between Yomiko and Nancy, but this time, we made the theme "family bonds." That's probably the reason it feels so different.
Editor: Why did you decide to stick to "bonds"?
Kurata: In the case of familial love, even if there's resentment or hatred, things can be settled with love, wouldn't you say? I wanted to take something more cut and dried--bonds between two individuals.
Editor: Was there anything you had to watch out for when writing on such a theme?
Kurata: Within family units, there aren't any major crises aside from births, deaths and marriages. Even if something major happens, you can forgive and forget... I'd like people to watch the bonds deepen as they go about their ordinary lives.
Editor: As to that, Masunari has a magical touch when it comes to getting the characters to bring out the little nuances in their everyday lives. Take the scene where Yomiko returns...
Director: Well, I have trouble with action scenes... actually, I can't do them at all. (Laughter)
Kurata: I'd say he's unsurpassed in portraying reality. I would like the viewers to look for that as well.
Ochikoshi: The scene where Yomiko and Nenene reunite is a moving one, and it does a wonderful job of depicting the hopelessness of bookworms who aren't able to even run up a flight of stairs. Please look for it on your DVD.

It's not easy to speak when the subject isn't here.

Editor: Director, what do you think of the manga version?
Director: In one word, "cute." At first, I thought the sisters were like spoiled brats, but their personalities evolved very nicely.
Kurata: This was the first project I'd done with Ran Ayanaga, so in the beginning, there was a little hesitancy between us. It wasn't until Chapter 7 that I think we began to understand each other. (Laughter)

For these bonus pages, we kidnapped Director Masunari, who's in a mad rush to finish the anime version of R.O.D, from the recording studio, along with Producer Ochikoshi, whose haart is filled whh thoughts of production, and writer Kurata, who has a deadlina in just three days. There ware smiles on their faces, but in their hearts, they were surely annoyed. Lika tha adults they are, thay acted polite.

Editor: Oh, you must all be exhausted.
Director: I am tired right now.
Kurata: Absolutely.
Ochikoshi: Ha ha ha. What shall we order?
Editor: I'll have the curried fried rice and iced coffee that's listed up on that wall.
Director: I'll have the same.
Kurata: Me, too.
Ochikoshi: Listen, everybody... at least open up the menu. Let's not have four of the same.
All: You, too?

What's become of Aya Ueto?

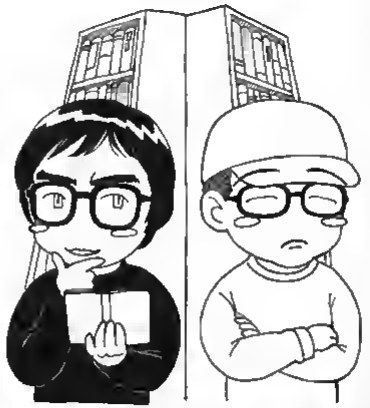
Editor: Well, shall we begin? How's the anime series coming along?
Kurata: What can I say? We're still working on it.
Director: We're now at the best part. (This is February 2004 and the anime is heading toward the final episode.)
Ochikoshi: We're getting good comments about it.
Director: About **Fullmetal**[2]?
Ochikoshi: How could you mention that here?
Kurata: Well, when the TV version of **R.O.D** came out, there was a big hullabaloo just before it aired. "Why aren't you using Yomiko?"[1] Of course, we were.
Editor: Yomiko's popularity is deep-rooted. Coma to think of it, when we did a magazine poll, there wes someone who sent in 30 postcards with her name on it.
Kurata: Really? That's gratifying to hear.
Director: I haven't sent a fan letter since the days of Midori Kinouchi![4]
Kurata: You wrote to her? But why Midori Kinouchi?
Director: Lately, I like Kodaka Kei. But it seems like whenever I become a fan of someone, their popularity begins to wene.
Ochikoshi: Does that mean that Aya Ueto is in danger?
Editor: Aya Ueto and Midori Kinouchi... You like anybody, don't you?

The story of the three sisters started with a possible story about Tibet.

Editor: By the wey, how did you decide on the personalities of the three sisters?
Kurata: I guess through discussions. They took shape as the story went along.
Director: We took hints from Hane's illustrations to flesh out the characters.
Kurata: Yes. Something like that... I wanted to use the phrase "Paper Sisters," so I decided to create three sisters. At that time, Masunari was working on **Heart Library**, so we had to make sure the characters' personalities didn't overlap.

READER KING

R.O.D THE ANIMATION AND R.O.D THE GRAPHIC NOVEL... ARE THEY YIN AND YANG? POLAR OPPOSITES?



PROFILES

KOJI MASUNARI
HE IS OBVIOUSLY THE R.O.D DIRECTOR. HIS ANIME WORK INCLUDES **RISKY SAFETY** AND **HEART LIBRARY.** HE HAS THE SUPERHUMAN ABILITY MAKE HIS ACTORS PERFORM SUPERBLY ENOUGH TO MAKE FANS WRITHE IN ECSTASY.

HIDEYUKI KURATA
AUTHOR AND SCREENWRITER. BESIDES **R.O.D**, HIS WORKS INCLUDE **BATTLE ATHLETES VICTORY, TRAIN + TRAIN, CLOTH ROAD,** AND MANY OTHERS. FIND OUT MORE IN ULTRA JUMP MAGAZINE.

TOMONORI OCHIKOSHI
A VERY CAPABLE PRODUCER FROM ANIPLEX, INC. HE'S A BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS BEEN WORKING TO BUILD SOMETHING GREAT FROM **R.O.D** ALTHOUGH HE'S THE YOUNGEST OF THE GROUP, HE APPEARS TO BE THE ELDEST.

BONUS STORY: CLEANING UP DEMONS WITH ANITA THE CLEANER

"HA HA HA...I AM THE EVIL MAGIC MAGGIE!"

IN THE MANSION, A FIGURE COVERED IN BLACK WAS LAUGHING. IT WAS MAGGIE. SHE HAD BEEN POSSESSED BY A DEMON THAT JUMPED OUT OF A BOX THAT HER GRANDFATHER HAD LEFT FOR HER.

"HA HA HA...IT'S TOO LATE TODAY, BUT TOMORROW I'LL BUY UP ALL THE SWEETS IN THIS TOWN!"

OH, NO! IF THAT HAPPENED, WHAT WOULD THE CHILDREN HAVE FOR THEIR SNACKS?

"HELLO THERE!" ANITA CAME FLYING INTO THE MANSION ON HER SPARKLING BROOM. BEHIND HER WAS MICHELLE THE FAIRY.

"YIKES!" SAID ANITA. "SHE'S BLACK ALL OVER!"

"BE CAREFUL, ANITA!" SAID MICHELLE.

MAGGIE WAS STARTLED TO SEE ANITA AND MICHELLE SUDDENLY APPEAR. "HMPH! WHO ARE YOU TWO?"

"I'M ANITA THE CHIMNEYSWEEP," ANITA ANSWERED, HOVERING IN MIDAIR. BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS WORKED ON ROOFTOPS, HER SENSE OF BALANCE WAS HIGHLY DEVELOPED. "I'M HERE AT MICHELLE'S REQUEST, TO CLEAN OUT YOUR HEART, MAGGIE."

"HEH HEH...RIDICULOUS. DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN CLEAN OUT MY HEART WITH THAT RAGGED BROOM?"

"WHAT DID YOU SAY? MY BROOM IS THE BEST IN TOWN! THERE'S NOTHING IT CAN'T CLEAN!"

BUT TO USE THAT BROOM, ANITA REALIZED, SHE WOULD HAVE TO LAND. IF SHE DID THAT, LITTLE ANITA WOULD QUICKLY BE CAUGHT BY BIG MAGGIE.

"OH, NO!" SAID ANITA. "WHAT SHOULD I DO?"

"DON'T WORRY, ANITA. IN THE BOX HER GRANDFATHER LEFT HER, THERE IS AN INCANTATION THAT WILL MAKE MAGGIE UNABLE TO MOVE. IT CAN BE READ ONLY BY SOMEONE WITH A PURE HEART. THAT IS WHY I BROUGHT YOU HERE."

APPARENTLY, THOUGHT ANITA, MICHELLE'S HEART WASN'T VERY PURE. "OKAY. JUST LEAVE IT TO ME."

ANITA DESCENDED ON HER BROOM AND HEADED FOR THE BOX.

"I WON'T LET YOU DO IT!" CRIED MAGGIE, LEAPING TOWARD ANITA. MICHELLE SWEPT DOWN AND FLUTTERED HER WINGS IN FRONT OF THE POSSESSED GIRL.

"OH!" CRIED MAGGIE. "YOU'RE BLINDING ME!"

WITH MAGGIE DISTRACTED, ANITA PICKED UP THE BOOK. BALANCING ON HER BROOM, SHE OPENED THE BOOK AND BEGAN TO READ THE INCANTATION.

"BLACK SHADOW, EVIL HEART, BE GLUED TO THE FLOOR!"

"UGH...I CAN'T MOVE!" MAGGIE CAME TO A STANDSTILL.

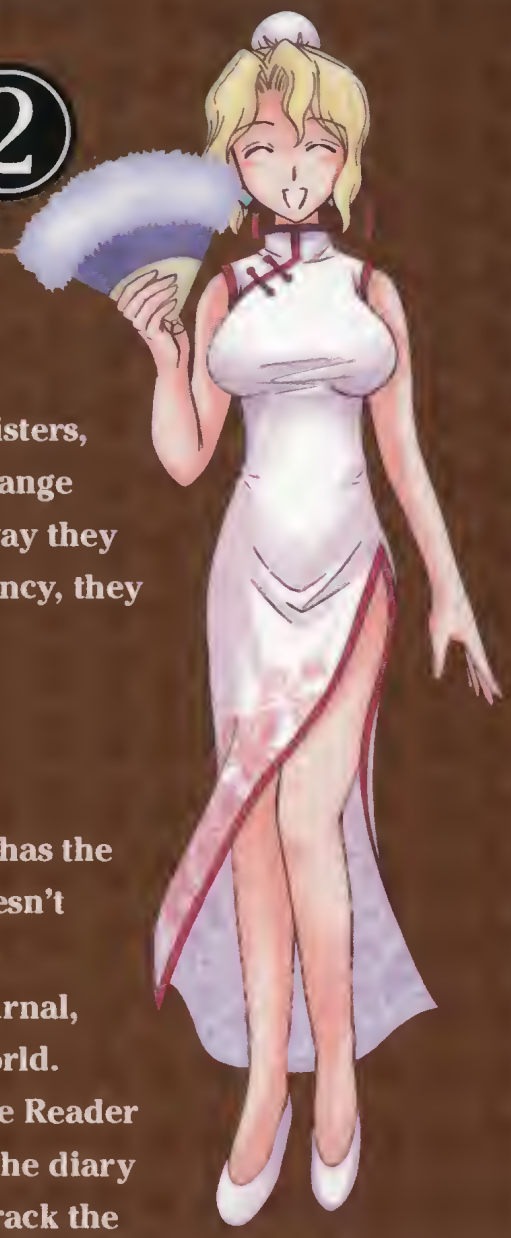
TO BE CONTINUED...

R.O.D

READ OR DREAM

We are Paper Sisters Detective Company

2



THREE SISTERS–ONE POWER

Michelle, Maggie and Anita are the Paper Sisters, three very different siblings united by a strange power: the ability to control paper in any way they desire. From their Hong Kong detective agency, they solve any and all cases involving books!

THE CLOCK STRIKES

While her big sisters are out of town, Anita has the detective company all to herself—and it doesn't take her long to get into trouble. Soon she's embroiled in a plan to retrieve a unique journal, the Clock Diary, from the criminal underworld. But the beautiful, devious book thief Lily the Reader Extraordinaire will stop at nothing to steal the diary for herself. Can the youngest Paper Sister crack the company's most dangerous case alone? Or has time run out for the Clock Diary *and* Anita?

The eagerly awaited follow-up to the hit series *Read or Die!*

$9.99 USA/$12.99 CAN

This book reads from right to left.

viz media

RATED T+ FOR OLDER TEEN

ISBN-13: 978-1-4215-0511-4
ISBN-10: 1-4215-0511-8

50999

9 781421 505114